

the chronicle

MONSTER
CABBAGE IS STALK
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Page 3



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Page 10



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Late payers delay work for borough

Work that would benefit the community such as parks and play areas is being delayed for up to two years by developers failing to pay cash they owe under planning laws, it is claimed.

Councils are owed hundreds of thousands of pounds by firms who are required to contribute towards the community when they get planning permission. But schemes are being left at the drawing board stage while firms take up to two years to pay. Cradley's Halesowen Hill Park was given £71,000 for a youth shelter and play area but work has been put back for more than a year.

The cash has now been paid by developers Clancey and Henley as part of planning permission they got to build houses in nearby Albrighton Road in late 2009. But locals are angry the process has taken so long.

Ward Councillor Richard Body said: "We have been waiting for so long now we are wondering if the work is ever going to happen. It's becoming a joke."

Dudley Council is owed £400,000 in contributions known as Section 106 payments. Of the £307,781 that was paid last year, £232,646 went on open space, sport and recreation.

Of the rest, £43,872 was spent on road improvements and £10,504 on public realm. The largest payout awaited is £16,594 from FA Bagley & Son.

The agreement was made when permission was granted to demolish a car repair unit and replace it with five homes in Kingswinford in April 2009.

Walsall Council has signed section 106 agreements totalling £750,303, but only £16,326 has been received. No money is owed to Wolverhampton and Sandwell, council bosses say.

But Wolverhampton has £6m of untouched section 106 cash waiting to be spent.

In Staffordshire, Lichfield District Council is still owed £210,000, while Cannock Chase District Council is waiting for £95,000.

Councillor David Stanley, Dudley Council cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "A series of improvement projects, including a teen shelter and a toddlers' play area, are scheduled to be installed at Homer Hill Park.

"We are finalising funding approval and hope work will begin on site later in the summer."

JBs' gear sold off through auction

More than £13,000 of equipment from former Dudley rock club JBs has been sold off through a private auction that launched earlier this month.

Administrators at the live music venue and nightclub in Castle Hill hope to strip the club of its memorabilia and fittings before the building goes under the hammer on September 22.

Birmingham-based auctioneers MGR Appraisals Ltd have been selling off music equipment and items that have adorned the walls of the club over the decades as it hosted legends of the music industry including Led Zeppelin, U2, Manic Street Preachers and Blur.

The club went into administration in September last year and closed in January with £450,000 debts.

The auction began on August 15 and potential buyers have put in bids for items. So far, 26 items including lighting and catering equipment, have been sold to four different buyers.

MGR representative Natalie Shrigley said there had been a "good level" of interest in the items. The property – minus extras – will be auctioned by Bigwood Auctioneers in Birmingham city centre later this month.

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Ramblers consider legal action after walk closed **BATTLE LINE IS DRAWN OVER PATH**

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A landowner has closed off a popular walkway because he is "sick and tired" of hooligans, arsonists and motorbikers causing a nuisance.

The route through Roundhill Wood in Hagley has been shut by Lord Cobham following a spate of fires and anti-social behaviour and although it is not a public right of way, ramblers say they have been using the route for 25 years.

But Lord Cobham, who owns Hagley Hall and the surrounding grounds, has barricaded it off because he is "sick and tired of hooligans causing a nuisance".

Members of Halesowen Ramblers Association are looking to take legal action to get the path reopened as it has been in public use for so long.

Lord Cobham said he was willing to work with the ramblers to come up with a solution but has warned it could take months.

He said gangs of youths on motorbikes had been congregating in the area near the Wychbury Hills.

Motorbikes

He added: "We have had a lot of problems with people on motorbikes and setting fire to trees."

"I have had to close off the path to stop them and also because it is simply too dangerous for people to go walking up there. It is my long-term ambition to open the grounds up to the public but I am being forced into this by yobs ruining it for everyone."

Derek Hill, a member of Halesowen Ramblers, said the path was an "important part" of routes for the group's 180 members. He added: "We could help out and monitor the situation and report any vandalism that we see. I can understand the problems but I don't think it is fair for this path to suddenly be closed."

Fire crews and police recently warned that the ancient trees in Wychbury Hills were being put at serious risk by the blazes.

Christopher Charles Lyttleton, the 12th Viscount Cobham, said he was seeking legal advice about access to the path.

Unsung volunteers are wanted



The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans with Eileen Fielding from Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, centre, left, and winners of last year's awards.

WINNERS from last year's biggest celebration of volunteers in Dudley have launched the appeal to find the class of 2011.

Dudley Volunteer Awards 2011 takes place in October and nominations are already in before this month's cut off date of September 26.

The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans, joined the 2010 winners to launch the awards, which have been organised by Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

As this year is the European Year of Volunteering, Dudley CVS has chosen a European theme for the awards, with EU flag-themed posters now on display in town centres across the borough.

Andy Gray, Dudley CVS chief officer said: "Dudley borough is blessed with a

galaxy of star volunteers who go quietly about their business giving their own time to make our communities shine."

"These very special awards are a fantastic way for the whole borough to say a heartfelt thank you for the huge difference that they make."

Categories include community action, children and families, health and well-being, sporting champion, environmental achievement, safe and sound, young volunteer (aged under 25) and the award for long service. Individuals or groups can be put forward as long as they do not include any paid staff members.

Nomination forms can be picked up from libraries and Dudley Council Plus, or downloaded from www.dudleycvs.org.uk.

For more information call Dudley CVS on 01384 573381.

Recession blamed for fall in visitors

The recession has hit visitor figures at the Black Country Living Museum say bosses at the Dudley tourist attraction.

Figures for the site in Tipton Road, Dudley, show 153,670 people headed in between January and July this year – an average of just under 22,000 per month which is more than 3,000 down on the monthly figures of last year.

Last year an average of more than 25,600 people flocked to the museum each month, with a yearly total of 307,326.

Bosses blamed the recession for families feeling the pinch. Trustee of the museum and deputy council leader Tim Wright said family budgets were being "squeezed" and they had less free cash. "People have to decide what is necessary to put on the table and what they can live without, and luxuries such as a day out at a museum will suffer," he said. "It's a cracking place and a fantastic day out."

Attractions

Former trustee and new leader Les Jones added: "Attractions such as the museum bore up well during the early days of the recession, but it seems to have caught up with them now."

"I'm sure the visitor numbers will pick up again as soon as the economy improves."

Chief executive for the museum, Andrew Lovett, said a recent report by the English Tourist Board, VisitEngland, showed paid-for attractions across the country had seen an overall reduction in visitor attendance this year.

He said a range of offers and events have been introduced in coming weeks to try and boost numbers. In September, a two-for-one ticket offer will run for the Home of Metal this weekend.

It is the first time in recent years the museum has seen a decrease in numbers, with visitor figures rising 10 per cent to 290,000 in 2009 and rising again in 2010.

While there has been a drop in the number of people going through the doors of paid-for attractions, visitor numbers at museums and art galleries offering free admission increased last year.

VisitEngland said visitors increased by up to 6.6 per cent in 2010.

Mayor meets RAF veterans

The Mayor of Dudley has met with RAF veterans and air cadets ahead of the Battle of Britain event in Dudley this month. The town will remember the heroes of the Second World War aerial battle Sunday September 11.

The day will include a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church (Top Church), a parade by borough Air Training Corps through the town and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in Ednam Road, Dudley.

The Mayor, Councillor Michael Evans, met members of the Royal Air Force Association and the 347 Dudley Squadron of the Air Training Corps, in Coronation Gardens, Dudley, ahead of the event to finalise the arrangements.

Councillor Evans said: "It is wonderful to see the several generations of people coming together to remember the people who fought and died in the Battle of Britain. I am hugely grateful for their support in the run up to and during the event every year. I hope local people will show their support too by coming along and sharing in this special day."

A parade of cadets from the borough's Air Training Corps will set off from Priory Road at 11am.

Sinah Warren Hotel, Hayling Island
Monday 3rd October 2011 - 5 Days
(4 Nights) Half Board
Includes Excursions

£249

Nidd Hall Hotel, Harrogate
Monday 17th October 2011 - 5 Days
(4 Nights) Half Board
Transfers Only - NO Excursions

£ 259

Gunton Hall Resort, Nr. Lowestoft
Monday 31st October 2011 - 5 Days
(4 Nights) Half Board
Transfers Only - NO Excursions

£ 159

Lakewide Classic Resort, Hayling Island
Monday 26th September 2011 - 5 Days
(4 Nights) Half Board
Includes Excursions

£ 195

Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight
Monday 17th October 2011 - 5 Days
(4 Nights) Half Board
Includes Excursions

£189

Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight
Monday 31st October 2011 - 5 Days
(4 Nights) Half Board
Includes Excursions

£ 189

Warner Mystery Breaks Historic Hotels
Monday 26th September & 31st October 2011 - 5 Days (4 Nights) Half Board

£249

Transfers Only - NO Excursions

Two men face trial for affray

Darren Benbow and Grant Rhodes, both of Hillside Road, Wrens Nest Estate, Dudley, have been sent for trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court this month charged with affray.

Benbow, aged 24, and Rhodes, 20, are accused of using or threatening violence in Dudley on June 4.

Both were given bail.

Mundon in message to fans over disease

Black Country comedian Tommy Mundon, who recently revealed that he is battling against Parkinson's Disease, has a message for his fans - "I ay jed yet."

Tommy, aged 77, has a packed series of bookings for the autumn and says he is coping well with performing, despite his progressive neurological illness.

It was revealed in March that Tommy, who lives with his wife, Val, in Alexandra Road, Halesowen, is in the early stages of Parkinson's.

He is being treated with patches that slowly release medication to control the pain and physiotherapy at Stourbridge Corbett Hospital.

"I thank everybody for all

back on the road again soon," said Tommy.

"I want all my fans to know I ay jed yet and I'm willing and able to perform!"

Series

He is booked to appear with the Black Country Night Out team, including Aynuk and Wombourne folk group Giggety, for a series of shows.

These days, because of his illness, he writes down the words for his 20-minute set in full, rather than just a rough draft.

He said of his illness: "I have some bad days and some good days - but I'm as keen as ever to be on the road performing."

He and the rest of the Black Country Night Out show will

be performing at the following venues: Solihull on October 4, the Garrick Theatre, Tamworth, on October 14, the Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock on October 20 and Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, on October 21. On November 12 they will be at the Barn Theatre, Witton, Birmingham and on November 18 at Dudley Concert Hall.



Tommy Mundon - concert dates

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Library is venue for history talk

A series of talks at Halesowen Library will launch on September 28 with David Baker who will be speaking on the history of the Black Country Museum.

On October 26, Terry Church will speak about growing up in a Black Country Village and, on November 23, John Billingham will present his collection of Worcestershire.

Keith Clepton's subject on January 25 will be a walk through Birmingham city centre.

Region's students celebrate another year of top marks



Callum Gadd and Heather Whale with fellow Windsor High School students Lucy Cox, Chris Nzacahayo, Lauren Homer, Emma Simpson, and Richard Chilvers



Celebrating their results are High Arcal deputy head girl Charlotte Barnfather and head boy Joseph Dutton

Celebrated

Headteacher David Seddon said it was "like winning the World Cup."

Castle High School in St James Road, Dudley, also celebrated a record-breaking year with a 25 per cent rise in the number of students getting at least five A* to Cs, up to 87 per cent, and 46 per cent getting the grades including English and maths - a rise of two per cent.

Headteacher Michelle King said: "We are very proud of our students. Their commitment and hard work has paid off and we wish them all the best for the future."

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Pole thieves in police chase are fined £100

Two thieves who stole scaffolding from a Black Country building site before hurling the poles out a car window during a police chase have each been fined £100.

David Jukes, aged 24, and Matthew Southall, 20, targeted the old Wordsley Hospital site in Stourbridge, which is being converted into new homes.

They loaded 20 scaffolding poles into a Ford Fiesta before being driven around Dudley and Stourbridge. The pair, who pleaded guilty to theft, were fined £100, and ordered to pay £250. A number of the poles were hurled out of the back window during the chase, Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

Jukes of Rookery Road, Wolverhampton, and Southall of Netherby Road, Sedgley, were seen dismantling the scaffolding by a passer-by at about 12.20am on June 23 and, when police arrived, the car had already driven off.

A police car then followed the vehicle as it went up to 50mph along the A491, Kingswinford High Street and small residential side roads. At one point the car even went round the island at Holbeck Road the wrong way.

Mrs Marion Bibb, prosecuting, said: "One would presume the two passengers were responsible."

Then the vehicle lost control in Brighthwaite Drive, Kingswinford and the three men ran away – but were found. Jukes insisted he did not throw the poles, said Mr Sunil Jagatia, defending. Mr Andrew Preston, defending Southall, said he had made the "wrong decision" to join his friends after an argument with his girlfriend.

Andrew Hollishead, 24, of Brough Close, Lanefield, has already admitted his part in the theft and driving the car. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Store locations being discussed

New locations for a planned multi-million pound new supermarket in Dudley town centre are being considered, it has emerged.

Talks have been ongoing between Dudley Council and major operators for months in a bid to bring a retailer to the area. Council bosses had hoped the store could be built on land on Tower Street but say after receiving "feedback" from retailers they are now also considering sites in Flood Street and Cavendish Quarter.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for regeneration at Dudley Council, said: "Extensive market testing has been completed which has confirmed that there is strong operator demand for a new supermarket in the town centre."

Cafe gets go-ahead

Plans to install a Costa Coffee outlet at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre in Brierley Hill have been given the go-ahead.

The unit would be built in a space near the Carphone Warehouse store. A planning application for the scheme has been approved by Dudley Council.

Plans withdrawn

Plans to erect a temporary classroom at a Sedgley primary school have been withdrawn. An application had been lodged for the classroom at St Chads School on Catholic Lane.

Custody for man in knife offence

A man who brandished a knife in the centre of a town after a night out has been locked up.

Jermaine Bostan, aged 20, from Dudley, was spotted on CCTV with the 3in lock knife in the early hours of July 9 outside the town's Castle Inn.

Jobless Bostan, of Belmont Road, Pensnett, was seen punching or stabbing the door of the pub and brandishing the knife at a group of four women

with him and at a taxi driver. Police were forced to hit him in the leg with a baton after he refused to drop the knife when officers were called to the scene less than a minute later.

Bostan had pleaded guilty at Dudley Magistrates Court on July 25 to being in possession of a bladed weapon and was sentenced to five months in a young offenders institution.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Bostan had been

drinking and had been thrown out of the pub at around 1.10am. CCTV records of the night played in court showed Bostan holding the knife in his right hand.

Mrs Amanda Tompkins, defending, said Bostan had taken the knife off a man in the pub and was worried about his mother, girlfriend and two other women who were still on the premises. She said he was "fearing for the safety of his girlfriend and mother".

Dazzling of pilot ends in £75 fine

A man who repeatedly shone a laser pen at a police helicopter – dazzling the pilot – has been fined £75.

Hasib Khan, aged 20, used the £6 device in the early hours while with a group of friends at the Clent Hills near Halesowen.

The light was shone in the pilot's eyes and he was forced to turn up the lights on his dial as his vision was blurred. Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

The car that Khan was a passenger in was then chased by the helicopter and police officers through Halesowen, Khan, of Southlands Road, Moseley, Birmingham, admitted a charge of shining a light at an aircraft in flight so as to dazzle or distract the driver.

Pilot Trevor Tiller had been flying the West Midlands Police helicopter towards West Bromwich at about 12.40am on August 15 for a separate incident when he saw the red laser beam enter the cockpit. Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said: "Captain Tiller turned his head away from the beam and had to increase the illumination on his dials so he could see them."

Khan, who was not represented in court, said he did not know that the aircraft was a police helicopter. He said he bought the pen for £6.

Khan was fined £75, and ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Boss is 'left in dark' over the future of store

dudleychronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

the Crown Centre when it is demolished ahead of a £50-million redevelopment project and the construction of a new Tesco supermarket.

But the firm's managing director, Andrew Errington, said he was still waiting to be told by Tesco when the store will need to close.

It comes as travel agent Thomas Cook reveals it is looking at relocating from its premises by the entrance to the Crown Centre.

Mr Errington said, despite Cooltrader's uncertain future, the business was doing well and shoppers were continuing to visit the store, which is the last remaining shop in the main part of the centre.

Mr Errington has said the firm, which also has branches in Brierley Hill and Kingswinford, is keen to remain in Stourbridge.

But he said: "We've been left in the dark. We haven't been told yet what's happening. We are the only shop left but we are doing all right."

Meanwhile Thomas Cook confirmed it was looking at options for moving to the Ryemarke area of the town.

Exciting

Tesco spokesman Jonathan Simpson said the company was "ironing out" the final details before work could get under way.

"As soon as everything is sorted we will be contacting everyone involved," he said.

Cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Angus Adams said: "As soon as we have a start date for the works we can assure all traders, businesses and shoppers in the town that they will be informed."

"These are very exciting times for Stourbridge as we await the biggest regeneration project for the town in decades and we appreciate that people are keen to know details as soon as possible."

"We are hopeful that this development will increase footfall in the town and act as a catalyst for further investment."



Vegetable grower Tony Southall with another of his amazing Cornish Giant cabbages

Giant cabbage is stalk of the town

Great-grandfather Tony Southall is the toast of his allotments – after growing a coker of a cabbage, which weighed in at 25lb 2oz.

But now he thinks he is about to unveil an even bigger one at Amblecote Allotments' Horticultural Show in Stourbridge on September 3.

Tony, aged 74, of Barbrook Drive, Lake-side, Amblecote, revealed the secret of his success in growing such a whopping Cornish Giant cabbage, which he began to cultivate in March.

"I swear by liquid comfrey to feed my cabbages – it's a herb and it smells like rotting vegetation," he said. "I also put a bucket of weevils in the compost."

Tony, a widower, who is a retired engineer, showed his cabbage with a 5ft diameter, at the allotment's open day last week.

"It was blessed heavy," he said. "I have heard of people who say they've grown a 60

pounder – but saying it and seeing it are another thing and I wouldn't always trust what a vegetable grower says."

A visitor who guessed that Tony's weighed 25lb – only 2oz out – won a bottle of whisky. And the cabbage was later donated to be eaten by residents of a care home.

"The one I'll be putting into our show at Amblecote Royal British Legion on September 3 looks even bigger – but I won't say the weight I think it is because it will be up for another guess," he said.

Tony, who has had his 148sq ft allotment for 13 years, last September grew a 136lb marrow – and this year he has another that he thinks should tip the scales at anywhere up to 230lb. He is also nurturing extra-long runner beans, as well as carrots, cauliflowers, parsnips and other vegetables.

And Tony confesses he does talk to his plants – warning them "if you don't grow, you're on the compost heap."

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Region's care home pensioners are left in limbo

Hundreds of elderly residents in care homes run by stricken Southern Cross have been left in limbo after landlords missed the deadline to transfer them to new operators.

Union GMB said Southern Cross had told it care home owners would find new operators by August 1 but most in the West Midlands will now not be transferred until November 1 – the day after Southern Cross is wound up.

Bosses said they were committed to

continuity of care for residents. Southern Cross employs 44,000 people nationally and runs some 19 care homes in the Black Country and another six in Staffordshire.

Residents are in the dark over the future of homes such as Ashbourne in Dudley, Riverside, Holbeche House in Kingswinford and Fernwood Court in Walsall, which are owned by a company called Bruchmen. The company declined to comment.

Homes in Aldergrove Manor in

Penn and Bellevue Court in Woodcross are among 12 in the Black Country owned by property investment group NHP Ltd. The company is planning to run a number of homes itself.

Continuity

Director Jeremy Jensen said: "The operation of Southern Cross homes owned by NHP will be transferred to a new operating company on November 1. NHP is working closely with leading

care company Court Cavendish to establish the new operating company. In the meantime the homes owned by NHP continue to be managed and operated by Southern Cross."

"The continuity of care for residents remains our number one priority."

Amanda Gearing GMB regional officer for the West Midlands, said: "The shambles that is Southern Cross rumbles on because apparently the landlords still cannot get their act together after pulling the plug last

month on Southern Cross. Quite why the landlords as the owners of the buildings should be running the show is as mysterious as it is unacceptable."

Councillor Lesley Faulkner, cabinet member for adult, community and housing services at Dudley Council, said: "We do continue to work with colleagues at a regional level through the association of directors of adult social care to ensure appropriate contingency plans are in place."

Trampoline events spring in to action

SPECIAL trampolining courses in Dudley will have people jumping for joy this year.

The courses, held at Crystal Leisure Centre, will run from September to December on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Every session will be led by a qualified instructor, who will help participants enjoy themselves while also being active.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "This is just one of the many courses and classes which run at the leisure centres. There are so many activities, clubs and fitness sessions there will be something to keep everyone busy this autumn."

Junior trampolining, suitable for beginners and improvers aged five to 15, will run on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and for children as young as three on Saturdays.

The advanced sessions, only open to children aged five to 15, will take place on Mondays from 6pm-7pm. The courses, which last for 13 lessons, cost £58.50, or £54.60 for under fives.

Adult can also join in, with a class for people aged 16 and over running from 7pm-8pm on Mondays, with the 13-lesson course costing £68.90.

A 50 per cent discount is available to Options+ leisure discount holders. For information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport or call 01384 812800.

MP calls for a new college

A campaign to get a new technical and engineering college built in Dudley has been launched by a Black Country MP.

Ian Austin, the member for Dudley North, has written to Dudley Council and to the Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove asking them to support his drive to get a University Technical College in the borough.

It comes as the UK's first £9.5million UTC is due to open in Walsall in September, along with around 70 others to follow across the country.

"Having a specialist training college where students study engineering and technical skills would make a vast difference to the area," said Mr Austin.

Fire drama as wasps tackled

A bid to smoke out a wasps' nest from the roof of a Black Country bungalow went wrong when the felt lining inside caught fire.

Fire crews were called to Abbey Road, Halesowen, after kindly neighbour Colin Stevens took pity on the couple living in fear of being stung and armed himself with ant powder spray, a lighter and a stick.

Mr Stevens, aged 50, said he had offered to carry out the work as it was bothering the elderly couple, believed to be in their late 70s and early 80s. "It was a bit of smouldering – it was nothing major and no massive damage done," he said.

"I put on a thick jumper so they couldn't sting me and was trying to smoke them with spray across all the bungalows," she said.

Crews were called to the fire at about 1.30pm on August 24 and were forced to tear away roof tiles to get at the fire.

Cradley Heath watch commander Steve Hodgetts said: "We would urge people who have this sort of problem to contact their local authority."

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RSPCA welcomes ban for cat killers

RSPCA officers have welcomed sentences for two women who "systematically" drowned four cats in a bath in a Sandwell flat. Samantha Browning and Sophie Bird were last week each handed an 18-week suspended sentence after carrying out the cruel act in a flat in Greenlawns off St Marks Road, Tipton.

Browning and Bird were both banned from keeping animals for 10 years when they were sentenced for the crime at Sandwell Magistrates Court. They were also ordered to do 180 hours unpaid work and were made subject to a two-year-supervision order.



Banned – Sophie Bird

Magistrates also ordered the defendants to pay £483 costs each to cover the RSPCA's investigation bill.

Catle Rydings, from the RSPCA, said: "The key thing is they have been banned from keeping animals."

"The sentences send out a clear message people who behave like this should not have access to animals."

The court heard 21-year-old metal sorter Browning, of Mason Street, West Bromwich, held the cats under the water after jobless 18-year-old Bird, who now lives in Gammane Street, Dudley, filled the bath. Browning admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal.

Mr Nick Sutton, who prosecuted both cases, said: "As an act of cruelty it is difficult to imagine one more sustained and calculated."

Failing

The court heard Browning and Bird had returned from a party, where they had been drinking and taking drugs, when the offences happened some time between January 1 and February 17.

The deaths came to light after a suspicious message was written on social network Facebook. Bird admitted failing to ensure the welfare of four cats.

Mr Jim Cooper, defending her, said: "She takes full responsibility and is ashamed and remorseful. She was 17 at the time living hand to mouth with no income."

"She played no part in the physical act because she could not face doing it but saw it as a way out of her predicament and she accepts she is equally culpable."

Caitlin's a real water babe



Two-year-old swimming sensation Caitlin Morris, in Stourport Sports Centre baths with her mother, Tracey Girling

Water baby Caitlin Morris has caused a sensational splash by swimming unaided across the nine-metre width of a pool – at the age of just two.

Caitlin, from Stourport, could swim before she could walk and her doggy-paddle style stroke got her across the width in 47 seconds.

And, although she may miss out on the London Olympics next year, her Kidderminster swimming teacher is predicting she may become the Wyre Forest district's own answer to champion Rebecca Adlington.

Caitlin, who lives with her mother, Tracey Girling, father Roger Morris and five-year-old brother Callum off High Street, Stourport, achieved her mammoth swim during a weekly lesson with the Baba Seahorse swimming school in the pool at Kidderminster's Holy Trinity School.

David Salt, Caitlin's instructor at the Baba Seahorse classes, said: "Quite rightly Caitlin's parents are very proud of her and it is clear she has a special gift. For such a young child, her ability is extremely high as it would typically be a four-year-old who could swim a nine metre width on their own and with such confidence."

Miss Girling, aged 39, said: "Caitlin started learning to swim when she was nine months old – and she didn't walk until six months later."

"I'm not a very confident swimmer and I wanted to make sure she was safe because we live in Stourport, near to the canals and the River Severn." Mr Salt said: "Although Caitlin may just miss out on the London Olympics next year I am quietly confident in the years ahead she may be the Wyre Forest's very own answer to Rebecca Adlington."

Hygiene food guide is served up online

Diners are being encouraged to make use of a food hygiene scheme when eating out in Dudley.

Scores on the doors is a food hygiene ratings scheme which allows residents to access the official hygiene ratings of restaurants across the borough, all at the click of a button.

By logging on to the Dudley Council website at www.dudley.gov.uk residents can find out how hygienic and well-managed the food preparation is at their favourite restaurant.

The online search results will provide a star rating and description, the standard of hygiene and safety compliance, cleanliness of the facility, confidence in the management and the date the inspection took place.

Compulsory inspections are carried out on a regular basis across the borough. Environmental health officers ensure that there is no risk to public safety by checking that standards of food safety and hygiene are being maintained.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "This scheme is easy to use and it will help residents to make an informed decision about where they choose to eat out."

Library to host a census day

People in Wyre Forest can find out more about their family history at a special event being held in Kidderminster later this month.

The Wyre Forest Historical Research Group will hold a free computer workshop on September 9 at Kidderminster Library.

The session is called "Discover Your Personal Heritage with the 1911 Census" and will be run by family historian and group spokeswoman Gay Hill.

She said: "The 1911 census can act as a portal to our family history."

"It is the first census where we can see our ancestors' actual handwriting on the census forms. It is known as the fertility census because of the questions it asked married women."

"This workshop will teach people how to make the best use of this census, which is very different from earlier ones."

The event is free, but booking is essential, on 01562 746370.

The workshop will start at 2pm.

Metal artwork

Art residents have been taking part in a Dudley Museum and Art Gallery project that celebrates all things metal.

People have worked with artist David Johnson on a mural at the first of four painting workshops at Brierley Hill Arts Space this week.

The mural will be unveiled at the Rock and Fossil Festival on September 24 and 25. It will then be displayed on the ground floor of Dudley Museum and Art Gallery for people to see.

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Man, 41, in abuse incident is sentenced

An abusive drunk is behind bars after insulting a court usher as he waited to be seen by the judge.

Ian Oliver, aged 41, turned up to Dudley Magistrates Court on August 24 having drunk beer beforehand and verbally abused the usher as he tried to enter the main courtroom.

District judge Graham Wilkinson labelled him "constantly drunk and constantly abusive" and sentenced him to two weeks in custody.

Oliver, of Yew Tree Road, Netherton, declined the opportunity to be represented by the duty solicitor and admitted he had been "out of order".

Mistaken

"I had a couple of cans of beer before I came and got mistaken. I thought he was my mate," he told the court.

"I was out of order – simple as."

Oliver appeared was charged with breaching a supervision requirement attached to a 12-month community order imposed alongside a 16-week curfew after being convicted of intimidating and threatening behaviour, when he also daubed a garden wall with racist graffiti, causing £200 of damage.

The court heard he had failed to attend appointments, and on one occasion had behaved in an "unacceptable fashion".

Inquest gives suicide verdict on lecturer, 51

A former college lecturer suffering from inoperable cancer killed himself by tightly fixing a bag over his head and shackling his own wrists with handcuffs, an inquest heard.

Alan Hobday, aged 51, was found at his home in Ox Street, Upper Gornal, on May 23 after police were called in by worried friends unable to contact him.

Dudley Coroners Court heard the front door was unlocked and Mr Hobday had been found lying on his bed still in his pyjamas.

A suicide note was found by officers following a search along with Mr Hobday's will which had carefully been put in order.

The former history lecturer, who worked at Halesowen College, had also made arrangements for his beloved pet cats to be cared for by his ex-wife. Black Country coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of suicide.

Crews tackle blaze in skip

A skip full of tyres and household waste went up in flames at a skip hire firm at the centre of a row over rubbish being stored in the yard.

Fire crews were called to a blaze at Brian Hill Skip Hire in Moor Street, Brierley Hill, at about 11.20am on August 24. Thick plumes of acrid smoke poured into the sky from the container, measuring 90sqft, as crews battled the blaze for three hours.

Watch commander Dave Foley, from Brierley Hill Fire Station, said firefighters

struggled to reach the skip at first as it was surrounded by about 15 others.

He said investigations are under way into the cause of the fire and said they are considering the possibility of arson.

However workers at the firm said they had been called to collect the skip from a home nearby as it had caught fire, and said the rubbish had re-ignited in transit.

Mr Foley said: "Luckily the skip was near to the end of the yard so it didn't spread to any buildings."

Live-in council staff have lower rent rise

Rents at homes for Dudley Council staff in Black Country beauty spots will rise at a lower rate than other properties across the borough, it has been revealed.

The rates will increase by up to 3.7 per cent – while in other council properties went up by an average of 6.7 per cent earlier this year.

Staff who take on such positions as park rangers live at the 10 properties at landmark locations such as Himley Hall and Broadfield House in Stourbridge. They will have to pay

between £1.58 and £1.60 extra per week.

Earlier this year increases on the borough's 24,000 own council homes ranged from £3.37 to £5.50 a week, with the average increase equivalent to £4.52 per week.

The council's leisure department has 10 properties, including five flats which are at Himley Park, Dudley, two semi-detached houses located at The Leasowes in Halesowen and a cottage at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge.

Council bosses say the increase had to be calculated using the central Government's formula based on inflation and the size and value of council properties.

A report on Dudley Council's website says the rents have risen by a higher than average rate in recent years.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said the rents were in line with other council properties.

But he said it was taken into account that staff in the homes were providing a service while living there.

Security

He said: "It is often better to have people living in these properties than to have them standing empty, as it helps with security."

The rent rise is expected to be

rubber-stamped by Councillor Stanley in the coming weeks.

Councillor Stanley said the homes were part of an "historic agreement" at the council.

He added: "The directorate of environment and culture has 10 properties which it has historically rented out to council staff, which generates income for the council.

"Tenants are subject to the normal charges, the same as any other council owned property."

"Many of the homes are located in parks or are part of larger council properties such as Himley Hall, and it makes good sense to have people living close to otherwise isolated buildings."

Opening of Headway's £255,000 new centre

A charity, which helps dozens of people in the Black Country battle back after brain injuries, has celebrated the official opening of its new £255,000 base in an old church.

Dudley's former Vicar Street Methodist Church has been turned into the new home of the Headway Black Country centre. Headway previously had rented premises in Wolverhampton Street but, thanks to generous donations and grants, was able to buy and refit the former church on the junction with Martin Hill Street specifically for its own needs.

The new £255,000 centre welcomed people for the first time in April and was officially opened by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Michael Evans last week. And Wolves players Karl Henry and Jody Craddock took time out of training to help with the celebrations. The footballers were guests of honour at the centre, where they signed autographs at a special open day.

Activities

Headway Black Country development manager Sue Bullas said: "The new premises have two training rooms, a computer suite, a quiet room, a spacious office with a brand new fitted kitchen as well as a garden.

"We have got so much more space to provide more activities and hopefully we will be able to extend our opening hours to serve our service users and their families who come to us from Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton as well as here in Dudley."

Midfielder Henry said: "We were more than happy to help raise the profile of the charity."

Leanne Wilkinson, aged 28, from Wednesbury, who has been attending the charity's sessions since February, said: "I come here twice a week – it's brilliant. Everybody is very supportive."

Nadine Price, of Walsall, who suffered a brain injury in 2005, said: "I hope others like myself are given the opportunity to come here and improve their life following brain injury."

Comedy at community centre



Community Players Claire Lax, Thelma Harper and Peter May in rehearsals

A drama group will chronicle a disastrous day in the life of a businessman, in their latest production No Dinner for Sinners.

The Community Players will be performing the comedy at the Oakfield Centre, in Bretts Lane, Brierley Hill, from September 7 to 10.

The play follows a bad day in the life of trader Jim Watts who is visited at his home by his boss Bill McGregor.

Unfortunately for bachelor Jim, his boss likes his employees to be married.

Jim tries to convince Bill he is married – with disastrous results which only get him deeper into trouble.

Community Players spokesman Mike Harris said: "It is an excellent play and we are hoping people will support the production. We have been working hard for the past five months and we can't wait to perform it in front of an audience."

All shows start at 7.30pm and tickets are priced £6 or £5 with concessions. Tickets and other information is available by calling 01384 394349.

Bat walk at canal by expert

Foraging sessions in woods

Families can join walks around the National Trust's Midland sites over the next week.

Forest foraging walks will take visitors through woods, to collect natural materials to make mobiles.

Sessions were running today at Kinver Edge. Each one ran from 10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm and the cost £3 per child taking part.



At Headway are Wolves stars Karl Henry and Jody Craddock with Dave Jones, William Maybury, Sharon Raybould and Nadine Price

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thechronicle

Pneumonia took
the life of addict

A drug and alcohol addict left severely brain damaged following an overdose more than two years ago died of pneumonia, an inquest heard.

James McCormack, aged 33, was left in a permanent vegetative state after suffering the brain injury in 2009. He died on July 26.

Dudley Coroners Court heard his carers at the Bridgewood Mews care home had called in a GP after they noticed a paper bag used to feed him had started to leak. He died in Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Addict threatened to kill woman's pet cats

A drug addict who threatened to kill a woman's cats when she walked in on him as he burgled her house is now behind bars. Gavin Smith, 29, of Windmill End, Netherton, was sentenced to four years.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court on August 24, he admitted raiding two homes in Buffery Road, Dudley. Recorder Mr David Herbert said the cats were "very dear" to the woman, and told Smith he had left her badly traumatised. The court heard that in May the woman walked into her house to see Smith running down the stairs. Mr Paul Reid, prosecuting, said she had been "absolutely terrified" and asked him: "You haven't hurt my cats?" He shouted back: "Quick or I will kill your cats", took her purse and ran out.

Driver is fined for snatching camera

dudleychrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

A motorist who tried to snatch a digital camera from a parking warden after being issued with a ticket has been handed a fine of £80 by the courts.

Tyrone Mathew Fellows, 30, attempted to physically take the camera from the warden after he was given a penalty charge notice.

He was caught parking illegally in Castle Street, Coseley, on April 15.

Fellows, of Flavell Street, Woodsetton, pleaded guilty to a charge of assault when he appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court.

He was fined £80 for the assault and ordered to pay court costs of £160, leaving him with a total bill of £240.

Dudley Council today said it was satisfied with the sentence handed out to Fellows.

Abuse

A spokesman said it was hoped the result of the case would send out a clear message that parking wardens were not "targets" for abuse.

Officials at the authority also confirmed that Fellows had paid the parking fine in full prior to the assault charge coming to court. Parking wardens carry digital cameras as a matter of procedure to take pictures of offending vehicles before a ticket is issued, according to the council.

The parking warden, who has not been identified, did not wish to make a comment following the court hearing which took place on Tuesday.

Cabinet member for transportation on the council, Councillor Patrick Harley, said he hoped the case would serve as a warning.

"I am pleased to see this prosecution has been carried out as behaviour of this kind is simply not acceptable," he said.

"People need to be warned that physical assault will not be tolerated and could, in some cases of course, even lead to custodial sentences."

Comedian in
town pub gig

A comedian who has supported TV star Alan Carr will headline an event at a Black Country pub. Anthony J Brown takes to the stage at the Comedy Hut, at The Mitre in Stourbridge on September 7 at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the venue.

Office chair set
on fire in street

An office chair was set on fire and rolled down a road in the middle of the night. Stourbridge firefighters were called to Wentworth Road, Wollaston, shortly after 11pm on August 24 and found the chair burning in the street. The culprits had fled the scene.

Plans are withdrawn

Plans to erect a temporary classroom at a Sedgley primary school have been withdrawn. An application had been lodged for the classroom at St Chads School on Catholic Lane.

Teen warned on breach

A Black Country man who skipped probation appointments to go "partying" with friends has been told he faces prison if he breaches the order again.

George Gill, aged 19, of High Street, Brierley Hill, missed two appointments with his probation officer, ordered as part of a 12-month supervision order attached to a suspended sentence.

"You think it's alright now you have finished the first part of it to go off partying and you have chosen to breach it," he told him. "Make sure you abide by this order religiously otherwise I will send you to prison."

District judge Graham Wilks told him he must finish the order and obey a new eight-week curfew, as well as pay £50 costs.

"George, you have breached the order and you have chosen to breach it," he told him. "Make sure you abide by this order religiously otherwise I will send you to prison."

"You think it's alright now you have finished the first part of it to go off partying and you have chosen to breach it," he told him. "Make sure you abide by this order religiously otherwise I will send you to prison."

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"You think it's alright now you have finished the first part of it to go off party

£27m Tesco store to open in October

Volunteers in big clean-up



Cleaning up Dudley Community Safety Team commissioning manager Bob Dimmock, Sgt Rachel Turner and Michael Tatcher of the Probation Trust

Around 60 community-spirited volunteers took to the streets of Lye for a litter pick. The team started from Valley Road Youth and Community Centre and cleared up litter from the surrounding roads.

Residents were helped by volunteers from the Big Clean Up project in Netherton, which regularly organises litter picks to improve the community.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said the event was part of a series of activities called Operation Teamwork taking place in Lye to encourage people to help their neighbourhoods. Housing advice and tips on preventing burglaries

were also available during the event. Property marking kits were handed out to help both deter burglars and make it easier to identify people's belongings.

People could also register their mobile phones on a national database called immobilise which helps police identify the owner of lost and stolen phones. Also available were free fire risk assessments for people's homes which identify potential dangers and offer solutions.

Representatives from The Dudley Community Safety Team and West Midlands Probation Trust were also on hand to talk to visitors.

A £27 million Tesco supermarket being built in the Black Country will open in October – more than a month ahead of schedule.

The supermarket near Burnt Tree Island on the Dudley-Sandwell border has been given an opening date of October 17 and recruitment will begin soon.

Bosses had previously expected the store to open in November. Around 80 new jobs will be created by the supermarket which is expected to boost total job numbers to nearly 400.

And construction firm Bowden and Kirkland said work on the scheme was now progressing quickly with the outside of the building nearly complete.

Hoardings placed around the site since building work started earlier this year are also now being taken down for landscaping to begin around the new building.

Landmark

More than 1,400 tons of steel has been used in the construction of the store, which is extensively clad in wood. The store has gradually become a new landmark and can be seen from around a mile away as motorists approach along the Birmingham New Road.

Tesco spokesman Mike McGee said: "We are planning to open the store around mid-October with a date of October 17 in place at the moment. Even if there were to be a delay it would not be much later than this."

"Recruitment at the store will be starting soon to fill the vacancies which are available."

Site manager for the construction firm Phil Gibbs said: "Part of the hoardings around the site have already come down for the landscaping so people passing can get a glimpse of the site."

"It is really starting to look like a supermarket complex now."

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thechronicle

Town treatment date changes top 90,000

More than 90,000 hospital appointments were re-arranged in Dudley in 15 months – with some patients given up to 10 new dates.

A new system to reduce the number of rescheduled and cancelled outpatient appointments is now being trialled at the borough's three hospitals.

Talk date at history club

A history group will hear about the heritage of Ironbridge when an illustrated talk takes place at its next meeting.

Amblecote History Society meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the Church Hall, in Vicarage Road, Amblecote, from 7.30pm.

New members can join by attending one of its meetings.

The next event will be held on September 14 and historian Brian Draper will detail Ironbridge's history.

Talks will also be held on October 12 and November 9.

Rock lifestyle will be subject

A talk on the historic Rock Houses of Kinver will be held at Kingswinford Library on September 14. The talk, presented by David Bills, will begin at 2.30pm, focusing on the history of the rock houses at Kinver Edge, home of the last known cave-dwellers in Britain.

Admission is £1 for members and £2 for non-members, with refreshments available.

Almost half of the slots were changed with less than six weeks' notice by bosses at the Dudley Group of Hospitals, with staff annual leave being one of the reasons for the postponements.

Between April 2010 and June this year, there were 93,902 appointments which had to be re-arranged.

Patients were given less than six weeks' notice for 40,888 of these slots.

During the period, 18 patients had their appointments rescheduled more than five times and one patient had their slot changed on 10 occasions.

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall and the Guest in Dudley and the Corbett in Stourbridge said: "A pilot is currently under way to 'partly book' patients."

"This means they are added to a waiting list and only invited to contact the trust six weeks before they should be seen. This should significantly reduce the numbers rescheduled."

Howzat for name?

A road name planned for Birley Hill will have a cricket theme because it overlooks a cricket ground. It is proposed to call a development of 22 properties being built off Norwood Road, The Wickets.

Enter the dragon

Rebecca Bayliss and 10-year-old sister Abigail meet the bearded dragon who lives at Dudley Zoo

Young readers at Gornal Library were rewarded for their hard work by getting the chance to see animals up close.

Children taking part in the summer reading challenge got the chance to attend the event which featured a visit by animals from Dudley Zoo.

Keepers brought a bearded dragon, white rat, snake, guinea pig and cockroaches to the Abbey Road library for the youngsters to see and touch. More than a 100 youngsters have taken on the challenge of reading six books over the holidays.

Librarian Alison Bryant said it had been a wonderful event and the children had enjoyed meeting the animals and learning about them.

"It was very exciting for them to see the animals up close," she said. "It is all part of our summer reading challenge."

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Restrictions stay in place for Morrisons

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Plans to lift restrictions on delivery times at a Kingswinford supermarket have been thrown out amid fears over noise. Residents near Morrisons, in Stallings Lane, were angry after bosses submitted proposals to get restrictions axed.

The retailer wanted to remove a condition preventing deliveries from being made to the supermarket before 8am and after 8pm Monday to Saturday. It also wanted rules stipulating no deliveries before 10am and after 6pm on Sundays and bank holidays to be lifted.

The move would have allowed lorries to unload goods at any time of the day – which residents claimed would make their lives a nightmare.

But Dudley Council has refused the application saying the supermarket had not provided enough evidence showing removing the conditions would not impact on nearby homes.

Noise

In a letter to the authority, one resident of Birchwood Walk said: "This planning application would allow Morrisons to take deliveries at all hours of the day. I object to this. Already the noise created from the delivery lorries is bad, so to allow them to deliver at anytime would be unbearable."

"It is especially bad during the summer when we have our windows open."

Director of Urban Environment for Dudley Council John Millar said: "The applicant has failed to provide sufficient evidence removal of this condition would not cause undue harm to the amenity of neighbours living nearby caused by noise generated from the delivery process. Therefore the application has been refused.

"Without the submission of sufficient evidence the condition should remain to protect neighbours from undue noise which would be associated with deliveries."

Morrisons spokesman George Kotschy said: "We are always looking to better the service we offer for our customers. As part of this we look for any way to make our stores more efficient."

Sarah's bead on success



Artist Sarah Jones has moved into Studio Seven at the Red House Glass Cone

Three years ago, teaching assistant Sarah Jones decided she needed a hobby and began searching for an art class she could take part in. But none of the painting, sculpting and other craft courses really seemed right – until she encountered a glass bead workshop at the now-closed International Glass Centre in Brierley Hill.

Now, the mother-of-three is a qualified lampwork glass artist, working five days a week creating and selling her own beads and has moved into a large studio at the Red

House Glass Cone in Wordsley. "I fell in love with it instantly," said Sarah, aged 41, of Milton Road, Coseley, who still works two days a week at Woodsetton School in Sedgley.

She then linked up with another glass student, Jane Ellis, of Norton, and they eventually decided to go into business together.

Part of the Made at the Cone collective of designers, the pair can be found in Studio Seven every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

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James Grove founded the firm back in 1857



Factory staff in the early 1950s gather for a photograph after what appears to be some kind of presentation



Andrew Bytheway - buttons made from buffalo horn



Grove's Bloomfield Works in Stourbridge Road which at one time had 600 workers

Button king fastened on to a winning idea

From soldiers fighting in the First World War to postmen and railway conductors – all of them had smart uniforms with shiny buttons.

James Grove and Sons supplied buttons to the Ministry of Defence, British Railways and the General Post Office and the firm's history can be traced back to making buttons during the American Civil War of 1861.

Still based on Stourbridge Road in Halesowen, the company was founded in 1857 by James Grove who started off with just a horse and trap. In the early 1900s he travelled across Europe selling horn buttons from his hotel room.

Now old photographs and artefacts from the factory have been handed over to staff at Dudley Archives and they give a snapshot of the factory in the 1950s and 60s.

Curator Andy Bytheway says it is wonderful to have such a rare collection of buttons in the archives.

"There are not many of these buttons left and so it is great to have such an extensive collection," he says. "Not only do we have some of the pieces that were manufactured at the factory, but also pictures of the workers and the founder James Grove."

James Grove served his apprenticeship with William Harris, who had a button factory at Spring Hill, which quickly became the largest and best equipped horn button factory in

Britain. James and his wife Ann Elizabeth set up their business in premises rented from Ann's father, but in 1865 this proved to be too small and so they decided to build the Bloomfield Works on Stourbridge Road.

The company employed about 600 men and women. Today, it employs around 40 people using sophisticated machinery and polishing techniques.

Reputation

Andy says: "When James Grove died in 1886 the reputation of the company as makers of first quality horn buttons was firmly established. When visiting the Bloomfield Works in the 1950s people would have seen the long line of storage sheds piled high with sacks of horns and hoots. The horns and hoots were the raw

material used to make buttons – and any that were rejected were ground down and used for fertiliser, so nothing was wasted."

Pieces of horn were put into steam heated presses to make them flat and then button blanks were cut out by machines. Andy says: "Then workers had to match up the buttons as, when they were spread out on a glass table and illuminated from beneath, at least four shades could be revealed. The buttons were then cut to the desired shape, holes were drilled and then they were polished."

The process today is still similar and some work is still done by hand. In 2006 the company moved into a brand new purpose-built manufacturing unit at Stourbridge Road and it now exports to most countries.

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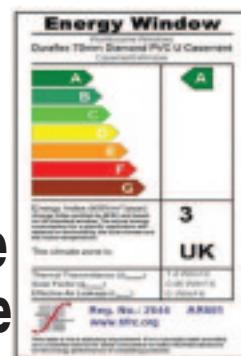
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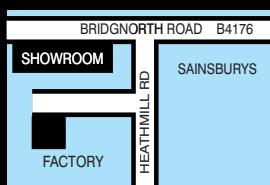
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Families filled with pride as young join up

A group of 22 teenagers from the Black Country were sworn into the army at a special event in Wolverhampton.

The proud youngsters, aged between 16 and 17, pledged their allegiance to the Queen and their country at the Mayor's Parlour in Wolverhampton.

Among the new recruits was Myles Grove, who was one of four former pupils from The Kingswinford School in Dudley.

The 16-year-old from The Plantation, Kingswinford,

said: "I've always wanted to be in the army. I'm looking forward to going off and starting my training in a few weeks' time," said Myles who joined the Grenadier Guards.

His school classmate Luke Turner, 16, of The Portway, Kingswinford, said he was a little nervous but was looking forward to starting training.

Meanwhile, Axl Michael, aged 16, from Wolverhampton, signed up to the Mercian Regiment. He said: "I was nervous about

being sworn in but it went fine. My family have been very supportive."

The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Bert Turner spoke at the ceremony and wished the group the best of luck.

He said: "This is a very important occasion and represents the final act of entry into the army."

The boys signed up in front of friends and family. They will begin their military careers at the Army Foundation College next month.



The proud youngsters after the ceremony for recruits

1,800 requesting extra refuse bags

Almost 2,000 households in Dudley borough have requested extra bin bags since council chiefs imposed a limit on how many could be put out for collection.

A controversial three-bag limit

on collections from each household in Dudley was imposed alongside the issuing of bin bags in bulk in September last year.

But in certain cases, such as when people need to dispose of low grade medical waste like catheters or for families with babies, householders can put in a request to put out an extra bag.

Now council chiefs revealed the number of homes in the borough which now receive an extra bag has reached around 1,800.

Sticker

Those residents who have been successful in applying for more have been given a red sticker by the council to show they are allowed to put out four bags.

Dudley Council environment chief Councillor David Stanley, said: "We currently have 1,800 households who receive an extra bin bag per week as part of our success-

ful red sticker scheme. The scheme allows people, such as families with babies, an extra bag each week, and is based on a criteria of eligibility."

The changes to the bin collections in the borough were brought in by the local authority to try and save the council around £250,000 a year.

Bosses say money has been saved by reducing the number of binmen in each crew from five to four and ending the use of agency staff. No redundancies were made but staff who left the service were not replaced.

Bin bags are also delivered in bulk, rather than once a week, with rolls of 26 bags issued to last householders six months.

Neighbouring authorities are also overhauling their collections.

Slop buckets have been delivered to more than 87,000 homes in Wolverhampton as part of a food waste recycling scheme launched earlier this year which sees leftover food turned into energy and compost.

A similar scheme that will involve slop buckets is being considered in Sandwell.

Chance to enjoy fitness classes

Residents can keep fit by taking part in a programme of free classes in Dudley.

The sessions begin on September 5 and run until spring 2012 at Mary Stevens Park, Silver Jubilee Park, Netherton and Huntingtree Park in Dudley.

Activities including Nordic walking, health walking, green fit and supported walks are all on offer.

Youngsters can also get involved with the free after school clubs running at the parks.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "Dudley is working its way towards being a healthy borough.

For more information visit www.dudleyhealthytowns.co.uk

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Preparations to mark Titanic anchor return

Volunteers are preparing to welcome back a replica of the Titanic anchor as plans for a homecoming celebration gather pace.

A "Nautical Day" in Netherton will be held on September 17, when the anchor will be sited on a plinth. The original was manufactured in Netherton and is hailed as an important piece of the region's history.

For the past year it has stood outside the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley after being paraded as part of a Channel Four documentary. Residents campaigned for it to be taken back to Netherton but feared it would stay at the museum. After Dudley Council announced its return, the day was organised.

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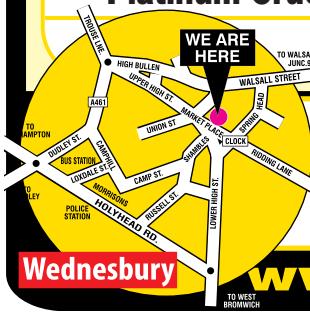
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Benefit fraud woman could lose her home

A 60-YEAR-OLD Tipton woman may have to sell her house after she admitted benefit fraud of £25,526.

Corinne Bennett, of Station Street, did not declare on forms that she was living with her husband while she pocketed thousands of pounds over a four-year period.

She admitted two charges of not declaring a change in circumstances at Sandwell

Magistrates Court last week. The case was committed to crown court where a Proceeds of Crime Act application will be made.

This will call for Bennett to sell her house to cover the cost of the fraud. Under the act, she cannot be forced to sell her assets but the alternative is to spend time in jail in default of payment.

Miss Claire Beddoe, prosecuting, on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions, said: "The fraud took

place from March 2, 2006 to February 28, 2010 and involved a change in circumstances where the defendant did not declare she was living in the same household as David Bennett as a married couple.

"She claimed income support since June 1998 and also claimed council tax and housing benefit. She said in interview she had separated from her husband, who was in full-time employment.

Joint

"She said they had not spoken for 14 years but they later reconciled."

Mr Bennett's earnings were transferred into a joint bank account and some money was also transferred into her sole account, the court heard.

Bennett received £21,600 in overpaid income support from March 2006 to February 2010 and £3,926 council tax benefit.

Mr Jim Cooper, defending, entered guilty pleas on behalf of Bennett. The case was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court on September 19.

Leisure facilities will be improved

EXTRA floodlit artificial pitches, more gym equipment and extra junior grass pitches will be created in Sandwell over the next nine years to improve the borough's leisure provision.

The borough council has approved consultants' findings in the Sandwell Sport and Physical Activity Places Strategy 2010-2020.

The report said provision needed to improve as participation in physical activity is well under the national average - 13.8 per cent of people compared to 22 per cent nationally - and many people live in deprived wards and are unlikely to pay for sport.

Few

The report said extra council-run facilities were needed.

Findings included swimming provision across the borough's nine pools is "significantly below" the national average, with many residents travelling to Walsall.

Compared to national averages, there are too few synthetic turf pitches, dance studios, golf courses and badminton courts and there is a long waiting list for the council's 42 allotment sites.

Recommendations to be brought forward over the next nine years include four floodlit artificial pitches, extra equipment at gyms, extra junior grass pitches and opening school facilities to the public.

Nurse on charity trek

A NURSE at Sandwell Hospital is embarking on a six-day trek up Africa's highest mountain to raise money to help cancer patients.

Toni Jones is aiming to raise thousands of pounds when she tackles Mount Kilimanjaro to support Macmillan Cancer Support.

She is a staff nurse at the emergency assessment unit (EAU).

"We see a lot of cancer patients on the EAU, so it seemed like a good charity to support," she explained.

Toni will be trekking next January with a team to raise money for the charity. She aims to raise at least £4,300.

"I don't know any of the team and I've never been to Africa but I'm looking forward to the achievement of doing it and raising the money for charity," she said.

"Training is quite hard and I've been going to the gym and organising walking trips, such as going



Staff nurse Toni Jones

to Snowdon."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Toni can log on to www.justgiving.com/toni-jones. Alternatively, send a £5 donation by texting "JGTJS7 £5" to 70070.

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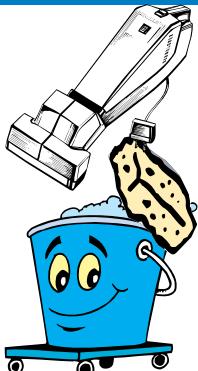
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Doreen's story

I have so much to thank Mr Burchell for... his advice and wonderful treatment.

I had a history of problems with my own teeth and received a lot of treatment in hospital. The implants I were advised to consider have been wonderful, but I found it a difficult decision to make. I hadn't heard of the procedure for dentures, but how glad I am that I took Mr Burchell's advice.

To say I am pleased with my new teeth is an understatement.

They are absolutely perfect and a pleasure to wear. I love to show them off. The difference the implants make to the security of the denture is simply unbelievable, it really is life-changing for me.

I found Mr Burchell's expertise second to none and he went to so much trouble to make each visit to the clinic a pleasure.

In the past I would have to consider what food to eat and there was always a problem with food particles becoming trapped under the bottom denture. I no longer have any problem at all and do not have to consider what food I should have or how to eat it.

Life has changed dramatically. The



Peter's story

I can eat anything, but that's not always been the case. It's as if I have my natural teeth back and I cannot believe the difference.

Having read good reports of Mr Burchell's reputation at fabricating realistic, natural-looking, well-fitting dentures, I made an appointment to see him.

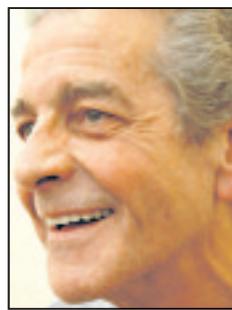
On my first consultation I explained the difficulty I was having in stopping my lower dentures from moving around and not being retained in a comfortable position.

He suggested I visited implant dentist Jonathan Pugh to determine if I would be suitable for the procedure. I agreed, but not without reservation due to procedure involved. My consultation with Mr Pugh was professional and reassuring and the X-rays he took showed I had sufficient bone to support two implants which could secure my lower denture.

The insertion of the implants was painless – no different to having a filling.

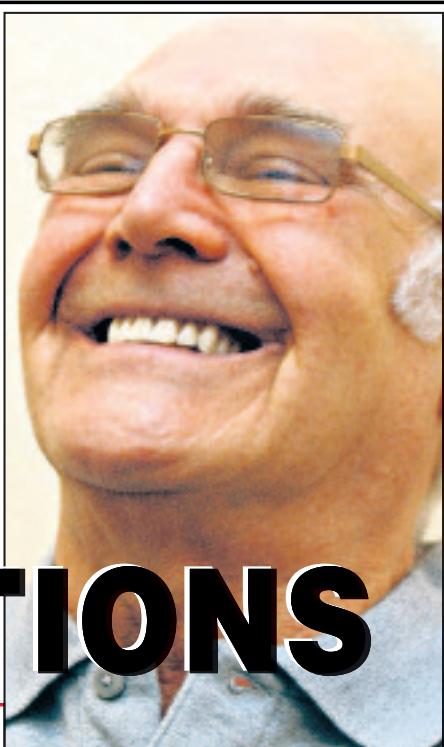
Mr Burchell fitted my perfectly-crafted dentures, securing them to the implants.

They were a superb fit, a situation I



had not experienced for a number of years. While initial costs may appear high, having considered the long-term benefits of the treatment, I felt confident I was making the right decision.

The stability of the denture is just great and I can happily go to any restaurant without thinking about what suitable choice might be on the menu.



Terry's story

I'm a confident guy, you know, nothing really keeps me down – even when things are not good. But I had nine years of trouble with my teeth and eventually it began to erode my confidence.

I would never have believed it; I'd have a laugh about it, but it really isn't funny when you have unresolved problems with false teeth.

My dentist eventually referred me to Mr Burchell to see if there was some way of making my plates fit properly. The difference now is a world apart. My plates fit perfectly, look like my real teeth and I can live life impulsively once again. Before, if I was going to a restaurant, I would have to use a fixative to secure my teeth. That was okay if I could eat within a couple of hours of using

the fixative. Anytime after that, it was hopeless, but now I can tackle anything. Previously, I had never been in contact with an actual denture-maker, teeth had always been prescribed through a dentist and the difference for me was incredible. There were five stages on the route to my final prescription and the treatment I received at every point was excellent. My teeth were well worth the money – what price can you put on being able to eat normally and socialise without embarrassment?

My confidence is back and Mr Burchell did everything he said he would: That my teeth would fit, I would be able to chew properly and they'd look real, totally natural. To sum up, there's nothing I have attempted to eat, which I have not been able to.

thechronicle

THE WAY I SEE IT

We must ride out the storm to reach recovery

I've been using the Parliamentary summer recess to visit lots of Dudley South employers and speak to lots of residents whilst delivering my latest "report back" leaflet.

I have an exciting programme coming up including BBC Radio WM's Dudley roadshow to back our city status bid; supporting Asda's Tickled Pink charity initiative in Brierley Hill; checking up on the build progress of the "Good Heart" British Heart Foundation round-the-world speed boat being constructed at Micklewrights Structures Limited on the Thornleigh Trading Estate; the White City: Black Country show at the Black Country Living Museum; a Ketley Quarry residents meeting in Kingswinford; The Bridge 105.2 FM's open day and, hopefully, a paddle with Stourbridge Arm Canoe Club.

Economics

Everyone knows Labour left us with a massive economic mess. We're spending £120 million a day on Labour's debt interest alone. Ed Balls and Ed Miliband were at the heart of creating this mess and haven't learned the lessons of their mistakes or changed their minds.

Their message to the British people is simple: vote for us and we'd do it all again. We all know where that leads, Labour's plan B is for bankruptcy.

New figures show more than half a million new companies have been created under the Coalition.

Companies House has released figures showing that 506,030 new companies were incorporated between May 16 2010 and July 31 2011.

The year to July 2011 showed an 11 per cent increase in company creation on the year before. This is good news benefitting our borough in terms of job and wealth creation.

Public sector borrowing figures for last month showed a marked improvement – borrowing, at £20 million, was much better than expected.

The figures contrast with the July 2010 borrowing figure of £3.5 billion. The City forecast, at £2.5 billion, had

been much closer to the 2010 number, rather than the actual figure.

Most of the improvement is down to higher tax receipts.

Corporation

The new bank levy raised £660m – as we said it would – whilst VAT and corporation tax receipts were higher than expected, all helping to pay off the record deficit inherited from Labour and get our economy back up and running again.

The positive news is that the British economy is continuing to grow and is creating jobs. And it is positive news too, that at a time of real international instability we are a safe haven in the

the Japanese tsunami may have reduced the growth figure by about 0.5 per cent, so underlying growth would have been about 0.7 per cent in the absence of these factors.

This is an increase in the underlying rate of growth compared to the last six months.

The economy has created more than half a million private sector jobs in the past year – the second highest rate of net job creation in the G7.

Deepest

Recovering from the deepest recession in living memory was always going to be difficult, and like all countries around the world our economy has been hit by rising oil and commodity prices.

There is no evidence that government spending cuts are responsible for lower growth forecasts.

We must stay the course to avoid the very real danger that growth is snuffed out and coming generations become the first in decades not to enjoy rising living standards.

SOMEONE once said: "A smile happens in a flash, but its memory can last a lifetime."

Every time we break into a genuine, happy smile we share our deepest emotions with someone else and give a privileged insight to whom we really are.

That is why my team and I at the Denture Clinic in Dudley are so passionate about the transformations our work can bring. We have a simple core philosophy of no compromises as we briefly become the guardians of your precious smile.

We will explore every possible avenue to bring about the best clinical outcome, using cutting-edge technology to establish perfect-fitting

With a country-wide reputation as a 'smile mechanic', he was the first of a new generation of practitioners to register in the UK. He trained in Canada and completed his qualification with The Royal College of Surgeons. Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) DD MCDF invites you to join a dental revolution

false teeth which can look and feel like your own. Many people complain they never meet the person who makes their dentures, but now you can as we craft your teeth from start to finish in our practice.

The responsibility of enhancing an individual smile with natural-looking false teeth is not taken lightly and never before has our work been so exacting as we strive to remain on the very cusp of a denture revolution. 'Natural' is our hallmark, as we bring some 26 years' experi-

ence to create not only a unique smile, but functional dentures too.

For our implants work we exclusively use implant dentist Jonathan Pugh, who is based in Wolverhampton. We have trusted, long-standing professional relationship with him.

The team is regularly surprised and humbled by the transforming nature of the clinic's work.

For many satisfied patients, our natural-looking teeth and attention to detail has become their natural choice – take a look at their stories.

Teenagers took boat on joy ride

Two men helped to steal a 18ft fishing boat before taking it for a "joy ride" along a one-mile stretch of a Black Country canal, a court heard.

Adam Cooper, aged 19, and Jamie Tranter, 18, were part of a group of six who took the blue, cuddly boat out of the compound where it was stored and through seven locks on July 3.

Prosecutor Miss Kelly Hale told the court the boat had been brought to the Stourbridge Canal at Wordsley for renovation. "The defendants collectively took the boat

Actors share 139 roles



Actors Georgina Lovell, left, Gareth May and Jane Williams who are taking lead roles in The 39 Steps

Eight actors will take on 139 roles between them when they take to the stage for a spoof version of a classic thriller.

Dudley Little Theatre will perform John Buchan's The 39 Steps at Netherton Arts Centre, Northfield Road, from September 7 to 10.

But while the production remains true to the original novel it is also a light-hearted take on the Alfred Hitchcock film version. And it will be a particular challenge for the small cast who not only perform the main and secondary roles but also all of the supporting characters. Only minimal props are used in the production with most of the play conveyed through dialogue.

Captured

Cooper, of Ridgeway Road, Wordsley, and Tranter, of Swan Lane, Wordsley, were captured on CCTV with the boat and pleaded guilty to taking a conveyance without consent at Dudley Magistrates' Court

where they received 12-month conditional discharges. They were also each ordered to pay compensation of £65 and court costs of £85. Mr Michael Davies, for Cooper said: "They seem to have thought it was a good idea to take this boat down the canal for a joy ride. It started off as harmless fun but my client accepts it wasn't." Mr Malcolm Fisher, defending Tranter, told the court the boat had been used by the group to rescue a cat. He added taking the boat had been "totally out of character" for Tranter.

Four other teenagers also pleaded guilty to the same charge.

£520 donated to first aid service

Shoppers at a local supermarket have donated £520 to St John Ambulance.

Volunteers held a collection at Morrisons in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.

Charlotte Parker, from St John, said: "Every year, up to 150,000 people die when first aid could have saved them."

Man is guilty of attack

An electrician injured another man by hurling a glass at the back of his head during a disagreement at a Black Country club.

Steven Boyle, 42, emptied the contents of the glass before throwing it at his victim in a "spur of the moment" attack, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Boyle, of Arcal Street, Sedgley, denied a charge of unprovoked wounding but was found guilty following a trial. The court was told the attack had taken place at Gornal Labour Club on November 27 last year.

The victim suffered a 4cm cut to the back of his head. Boyle was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for two years, ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work and to pay his victim £1,000 compensation. He will also have to pay legal costs of £2,000.

Bridal show at centre

A bridal show is to be held at the Merry Hill Centre in Brierley Hill next month.

Taking place on September 24 and 25, it will be held on specially erected marquees on the centre car park.

There will be more than 80 exhibitors, showcasing venues as well as wedding suppliers of, cakes, flowers, marquees, chairs, suit hire and mother of the bride outfits. Companies which can provide cars and entertainers will also be on hand.

Tickets are £5 per adult, call 01384 484602 or book online at www.weddingconnectionsuk.co.uk

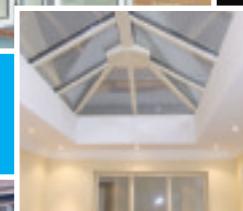
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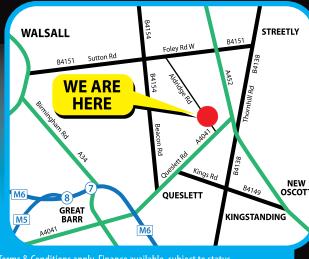
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thechronicle

Hollywood takes up author's first book

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A Black Country author is preparing to rub shoulders with Hollywood stars after landing a role working on the movie of his debut novel.

Steve Watson, aged 39, will be involved with picking the star-studded cast of Before I Go To Sleep, which has sold more than 100,000 copies.

Kate Winslet, Angelina Jolie and Cate Blanchett are among the names tipped for the lead role.

Mr Watson is remaining tight-lipped about plans for the movie but says he is astonished that so many big names are interested.

He said: "It's all very hush-hush at the moment. The first I heard about the plans for the film was when I read about it in an American trade paper and it's all taken off from there."

"It will be great to be involved. I can't believe what's happening and I feel so privileged."

Decisions

Casting decisions are due to be made at the end of September, before the movie goes into pre-production.

Mr Watson says he had no idea the book would change his life when he started writing it while working at St Thomas Hospital in London. The audiology specialist has taken a career break and might return.

He grew up in Wordsley, Stourbridge, and moved to London 15 years ago. His book shot to number seven in the bestseller lists in America, the highest-placed first book by a British author since JK Rowling.

It tells the story of a woman who wakes up to find she does not recognise her life and she is married to a complete stranger. The tale is inspired by amnesia cases Mr Watson encountered in his career.

A former pupil at The Wordsley School and King Edwards VI Sixth Form College, Stourbridge, he said he started work on the novel about two years ago. The idea was picked up by publishers Harper Collins, and has since been acquired by 32 other publishers worldwide.

Hoping for a knockout play

Director of the Johnians Phill Liptrot with chairman of St Johns Preservation Group Deb Brownlee preparing for the event

boxer William Perry.

But now the group have created the new 20 minute mystery drama with the audience getting the chance to decide where the Tipton Slasher is now. The group meets on Tuesday evenings at St John's Church Preservation Group drop in centre, in St John's Road, Kates Hill, Dudley, from 7pm.

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• Isle of Mull & Iona
• Fort William

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Enjoy a break in North Devon - a delightful mixture of dramatic coastline and magnificent moorland scenery coupled with unspoilt resorts, bustling market towns and quaintly named villages. We stay for 2 nights on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis at the Royal Hotel. This is situated overlooking the beautiful village and bay at Woolacombe

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Optional excursions:

- Visits to Koblenz and the picturesque town of Cochem - £9.95 pp
- Rudesheim - £9.95 pp

Special Offer: Book both excursions for just £17.95pp

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A Taste of Southern Ireland

Lawlers Hotel

The idyllic fishing villages, historic castles and emerald green hills of southern Ireland are the destination for this tour. We stay at the popular Lawlers Hotel which overlooks the harbour. It offers elegant décor, comfortable rooms and good food served in a stylish restaurant.

Included excursions:

- A visit to the mediaeval city of Kilkenny
- A visit to the thriving maritime city of Waterford - the capital of Ireland's sunny south east coast. Continue to Tramore - a traditional seaside resort.

5 Days • 4 Nights: 19 September from £199.95



French Riviera

3* Mercure Hotel, Grasse

Be swept away by the opulence and sophistication of the glamorous Côte d'Azur. On this sun drenched stretch of coastline are luxurious resorts and Mediaeval villages where the mountains seem within touching distance and the sea forms a mosaic of greens and blues. We stay at the charming town of Grasse - the world capital of perfume. The 3* Mercure Hotel is set in the centre of town. Features include a bar, restaurant, terrace and outdoor swimming pool.

Optional excursions:

- Nice and Menton - £15 pp
- Monaco & Monte Carlo - £15 pp
- St Tropez and scenic coastal drive - £15 pp

Special Offer: Book all 3 excursions for just £40 pp

8 Days • 7 Nights: 08 October from £399.95



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- Buffet breakfast, luncheon snack and dinner, packed lunch will be provided on some excursion days
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- Selection of beer, wine, soft drinks and local spirits from approx. 10am until midnight daily

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Tuesday	7.15pm High Arcal School, Sedgley DY3 1BP		
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Wednesday	6.30-7.30pm and 7.35-8.35pm High Arcal School, Sedgley DY3 1BP	Friday	6.30-7.30pm The Kingswinford School, Water Street, Kingswinford DY6 7AD
Wednesday	6.30-7.30pm Woodside Community Centre, Highgate Road, Dudley DY2 0SN	Saturday	9.30-10.30am High Arcal School, Sedgley DY3 1BP

New Classes - Monday 12th September

Holy Trinity, Wordsley, Zumba Toning 7.45-8.30pm

Wednesday 21st September

The Grand Hall, Dudley College, The Broadway, Dudley 6.15-7.15pm

Zumba (Booking not required)

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Zumba Toning

Tuesday 6.15-7pm **High Arcal School** Friday
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New Venue 10.15am - 11.00am
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Suzanne Richardson, Anneka Howdle, Emma Knott & Claire Evans

Work on one-way scheme is started



Chris Bosworth, from Laura Elizabeth Crafts, with Councillor Angus Adams, back left, and also Councillor Patrick Harley in Stone Street, Dudley

Appeal for fundraisers

The Midlands Air Ambulance is looking for 21,000 new fundraisers to celebrate its 21st anniversary. The charity's 21,000 at 21 appeal is seeking people to sign up to a new donations service.

Cash raised will go towards keeping the Brierley Hill-based charity's three iconic red helicopters running.

Bosses are asking donors to give £5

a month to help raise the £6 million that the service needs to cover costs.

The charity receives no funding from the Government or the National Lottery and wants to ensure it gets enough donations in the future.

Anyone who wants to sign up as a regular donor should contact 0800 8402040 or visit their website www.midlandsairambulance.com.

Work has started to make a Dudley town centre street one-way to create more parking spaces for shoppers heading to the town.

Traders have been calling for more spots for shoppers to park as they hope it will bring more people into the centre. Now Dudley Council's highway team has started work on revising the layout of Stone Street which will increase the number of parking spaces from 12 to 18.

The work is part of an ongoing scheme to create an extra 55 parking spaces throughout the town.

Removed

Business owners in the Stone Street and High Street area say trade has fallen after the former Stone Street car park was removed to create an £800,000 public square seven years ago.

Christine Bosworth, who runs Laura Elizabeth Crafts in Stone Street, said: "We always said if they want businesses like us to stay here they need to help us and I'm glad it's finally happening."

"We have had customers driving round in circles because they couldn't find a space and I'm sure this will help."

Councillor Patrick Harley, cabinet member for transportation, said: "The new one-way system will enable us to introduce more on-street parking – something that the local traders have wanted for some time."

The new road system and parking spaces was in place from Sunday evening.

Hundreds in race for 40 new jobs

Up to 400 job seekers have so far applied for 40 positions at a Dudley fast food restaurant.

McDonald's in Castlegate Way says it has been inundated with applications since first advertising the new posts last month.

Franchisee Afia Sirkhot said 10 recruits had already begun work and she is hoping to appoint the remainder by October.

In November the restaurant started opening 24 hours a day which has proven popular with customers prompting the need for extra workers.

Mrs Sirkhot wants to boost the workforce from 60 to 100.

The available positions are "across the board" and range from front counter and kitchen staff to drive-thru attendants.

Mrs Sirkhot said: "We have had an incredible number of applications. We've probably had between 300 and 400."

"The email inbox is full every day."

72 jobs are lost at metal factory

More than 70 workers have lost their jobs after an historic metal firm closed part of a factory in the Black Country.

Stokes Forgings Ltd has shut its hammer forging plant which makes car parts. Workers at the site in Vine Street, Brierley Hill, were originally told last year that jobs were at risk but hopes had been raised that the positions could be saved after the cost-cutting plans were delayed for six months.

The firm said the losses were "unavoidable" and confirmed that 72 people had been laid off after a fall in trade and rising costs.

The company, which employed 220 people at its Brierley Hill base before the job cuts, also has a site at Cochrane Road in Dudley.

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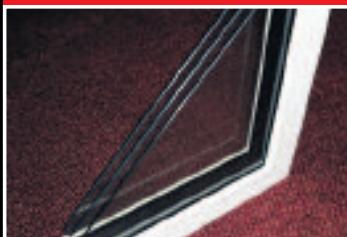




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Decision set for flood site homes project

Plans to knock down a business park and build more than 200 homes near the River Stour in Stourbridge will go before council planners in October.

Working industrial units at Sunrise Business Park in Wollaston High Street and nearby land off Lowndes Road and Bradley Road would be emptied and replaced by up to 215 two

and three-storey houses. Councillor Colin Wilson, chairman of Dudley Council's planning committee, said councillors were expected to meet on October 31.

The controversial plans have sparked concerns from nearby businesses who have claimed the development would be a "recipe for disaster", labelling the proposals "woefully inadequate".

The land neighbours both the River Stour and Stourbridge Canal – and after two major floods in recent years, traders say the development will make matters worse.

A flood risk assessment carried out as part of the application reveals 30 per cent of the site is at a high risk, with more than one per cent chance of flooding, while 63 per cent is at a medium risk.

Reached

David Millward, director of Evans & White Manufacturing Ltd, which has been in Bradley Road for more than 60 years, said waters had reached more than 2ft deep in his workshop.

"The areas where they want to build houses – where they want to put families and children – is basically one big flood plain.

"I find that very concerning," he said.

He said he was also worried about residents complaining about noise from his factory.

Nobody from site owners Revelan Plc was available to comment.



Receptionist Jo Handley and veterinary nurse Emma Adams appeal for their lost practice cat Jack

Groups are looking for actors

Four theatre companies which meet at a Halesowen school are seeking actors to join their ranks.

Dudley Performing Arts groups meet at Earls High, Furnace Lane, and are appealing for new members to join in September.

Junior Buzz Youth Theatre is for seven to 11-year-olds and meets on Thursdays from 4.30pm to 6pm.

A new group, The Senior Buzz Youth Theatre, for 11 to 15-year-olds will meet at the same time on Thursdays.

The Buzz Theatre Company also meets Thursdays from 6pm to 9pm and is for those 15 years and above.

The NAC theatre group meets on Wednesday from 7pm and is for ages 12 to adults.

For details call Sheila Chamberlain-Hyett or Rachel Sharpe on 01384 813904.

Meeting for local tenants

Council tenants who live in high rise properties are invited to discuss issues relating to their estates at a dedicated meeting.

The group discusses many issues relating to living within a high rise block.

The next meeting is on September 6 at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley from 7pm to 9pm. Call 01384 815168 for details.

Salon scheme

Plans to turn a former Cantonese restaurant into flats and a hairdressing salon have been submitted to Dudley Council. Developer SEP Properties bought Shanghai Fusion, Dudley.

Vet appeal over cat

Distraught staff at a Dudley vets' practice have appealed for help in finding their own beloved cat Jack, who has been missing for weeks.

Jack, now aged 17, has been at Blacks Veterinary Group in Hall Street for 15 years since he was brought in injured after being hit by a car.

He was never claimed and has become a favourite in the surgery, much loved by staff and visitors alike.

Practice manager Val Marsh said he disappeared weeks ago.

"Everyone is just distraught – he's like our own pet and we're desperate for him to come back," she said.

"We wonder whether he jumped into a client's car or got trapped somewhere but we just don't know."

Jack is black with some grey fur. Anyone who thinks they may have spotted Jack can Val on 07968876503 or 01384 823510.

Receptionist Jo Handley and veterinary nurse Emma Adams appeal for their lost practice cat Jack

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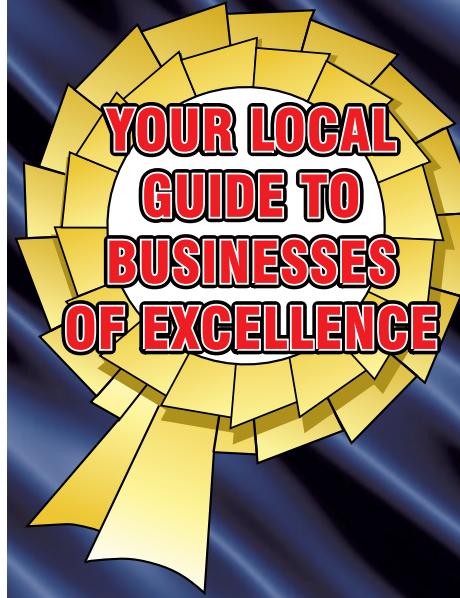
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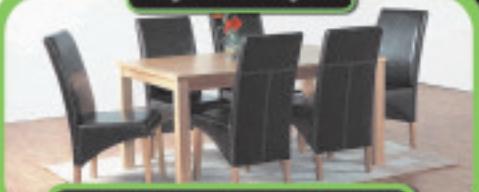
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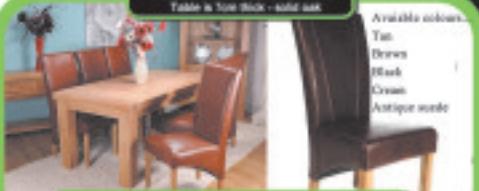
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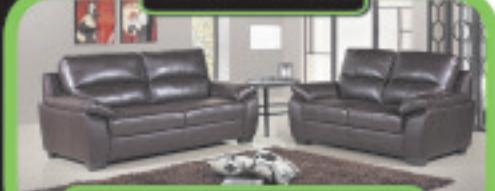
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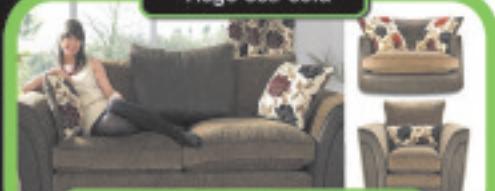
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Dave Willetts - professor

Award-winning act from the girl showing her blonde ambition

OMG! Blockbuster West End and Broadway musical Legally Blonde The Musical is coming to the Midlands as part of its first UK tour.

Faye Brookes will be proving blondes really do have more fun – and aren't as dumb as some claim – when she stars as Elle Woods in the comedy musical that remains one of the hottest tickets in London's theatreland.

Based on the Hollywood movie starring Reese Witherspoon, it tells of a prom queen who hits the books with her boyfriend, Warner, drops her for someone more serious. Soon she is heading for Harvard Law School, accompanied by her faithful chihuahua Bruiser, ready to confound prejudices.

The show is directed by award-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell, who also

brought Hairspray to the stage, and Manchester actress Faye Brookes comes to the starring role after a spell in Grease in the West End.

She is joined by experienced musical actress Claire Sweeney, formerly of Brookside and who recently toured Andrew Lloyd Webber's revived Tell Me On A Sunday, as Paulette. Neil Toon, from Hollyoaks and a spell in Les Miserables, will play Warner. West End veteran Dave Willetts plays professor Callahan, Iwan Lewis, from Fame in the West End, will play Emmett.

The sassy spectacular opens at Hanley's Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent on September 20, where it will run until October 1. Then the show has a run in Birmingham at the New Alexandra Theatre from October 4 to 12. For tickets at Stoke call the box office on 0844 871 7649 and at Birmingham 0844 871 3011, or go to the theatres' websites.



Faye Brookes takes the leading role for the Birmingham shows

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Vintage TV, 6.30pm

Whoo! Here come the 80s. From the years that brought us the Rubik's Cube, the Apple Macintosh, the disposable camera (Thanks, Fuji...) The Breakfast Club and - of course - *Back to the Future*, we deliver to you the ultimate in 'nostalgia' beats. This 'prime' playlist will be all you need (short of Pac-Man...) to take you back to the most triumphant decade of all. Featuring tracks from Paul Young, The Bangles, Eurythmics, A-ha, The Human League, New Order and Bananarama, these back-to-back videos are going to be Atomic.

9.00 **Breakfast** 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 9.45 **Radio 4** **Afternoon Cooking** (F) 9.55 **BBC News: Regional News: Weather** 10.00 **Food & Drink** 10.00 **World Cup Olympic Dreams** 10.00 **U.S. Open** 10.00 **Shawn Johnson and John Gutfreund: A Question of Sport** (F) 10.00 **Rowing** 10.00 **Waltons & Grange: The Warty Trousers** (F) 10.00 **BBC News: Regional News: Weather** 10.00 **Epic Win**

9.00 **All New Total Wipeout** Celebrity including Dom Joly and Suede Amy compete.

9.00 **The Harcourt Lottery: Secret Fortune** Two civil partners answer questions in the high-stakes quiz show hosted by Nick Knowles.

9.00 **Crashland** A woman convinced she is being pursued by a stranger and Lloyd's life is placed in jeopardy when he refuses to break his moral code and lie to a patient. Emma Samms guest stars.

9.00 **John Bishop's British** The comedian tackles the subject of national identity. Last in the series.

9.00 **BBC One's Wednesday National Lottery Update**

9.15 **FILE: Sheet Metal** (2008) Premieres. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais.

9.15 **The Football League Show** Highlights from League One and League Two; Weathernews.

9.15 **BBC News**

9.15 **ITV News**

9.15 **ITV News: Weather**

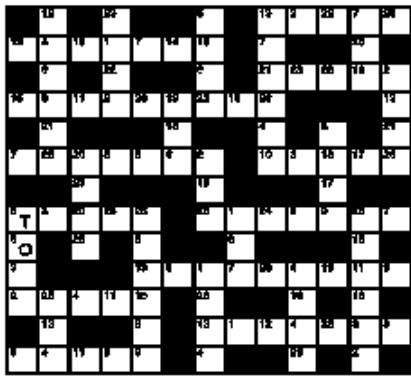
9.15 **ITV**

Brain Gym

No.132

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

F	D	P	R	Z	Y	P	K	T	R	G	U	H	C
L	Q	A	E	X	N	W	S	I	B	J	N	Y	

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Torquay Rainbow Hotel	MON 12 SEP	£199.95	£149.95
York & Scarborough	MON 12 SEP	£229.95	£149.95
London Theatre GHOST/PHANTOM	FRI 16 SEP	£89.95	£79.95
Mystery Pricebuster	SAT 17 SEP	£299.95	£199.95
Newquay Glendevon Hotel	SAT 17 SEP	£45	£39.95
Bournemouth Durley Dean Hotel	SUN 18 SEP	£299.95	£199.95
Eastbourne Hilton Royal Parade Hotel	MON 19 SEP	£199.95	£149.95
Italy's Lake Garda	FRI 23 SEP	£449.95	£399.95

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Say your place? (6)
4. Reorganised Oct. (11's defence) (6)
9. Induce to become religious? (4,2,7)
10. (Gothic) Regal with thrones (7)
11. It's returned before the tax (5)
12. A number is to be accommodated (5)
14. Folklore but still mostly (5)
18. Broadside of some colossal volume (5)
19. Seating is never enough with such chairs (7)
21. Utterly to keep out of trouble long? (8,5)
22. Run and see, perhaps, to make certain (6)
23. It's used to bring down, or lift up (6)

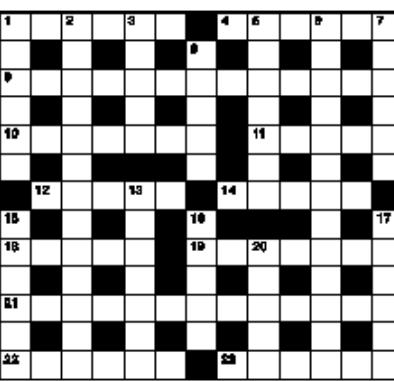
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Falling (5)
4. Pinched (6)
9. Mistake in setting out (5)
10. Confused by bill bibles (7)
11. Gorset (5)
12. Pray (5)
14. Shore (5)
18. Show house (5)
19. Followed (7)
21. Calm (13)
22. Long coat (6)
23. Fished (6)

Down

1. Do they always give straight directions? (6)
2. What I should have done, seen. In your religious? (7,6)
3. Not qualified to sum up (5)
5. You're meant to put an arm in it (7)
6. It currently shows the time (8,5)
7. Engine gives out before the Spanish final (5)
8. Humble sailor on a rough sea (5)
13. He's about to sure (7)
15. Get out a piece of the lighting equipment (5)
16. Signs in at the comment's hotel (5)
17. Mabinogion there's some body in the box (5)
20. Miners plus with a bottom colour (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS.

CRYPTIC: Across: 1. Antiphonial, 2. Cables, 3. Limping, 4. Hike, 5. Rely, 6. Sled, 7. Shaggy, 8. Lick, 9. Rely, 10. Hike, 11. Limping, 12. Sled, 13. Shaggy, 14. Hike, 15. Rely, 16. Sled, 17. Shaggy, 18. Lick, 19. Hike, 20. Sled, 21. Shaggy, 22. Rely, 23. Lick, 24. Sled, 25. Shaggy, 26. Hike, 27. Rely, 28. Lick, 29. Sled, 30. Shaggy, 31. Hike, 32. Rely, 33. Sled, 34. Shaggy, 35. Lick, 36. Hike, 37. Rely, 38. Sled, 39. Shaggy, 40. Lick, 41. Hike, 42. Rely, 43. Sled, 44. Shaggy, 45. Lick, 46. Hike, 47. Rely, 48. Sled, 49. Shaggy, 50. Lick, 51. Hike, 52. Rely, 53. Sled, 54. Shaggy, 55. Lick, 56. Hike, 57. Rely, 58. Sled, 59. Shaggy, 60. Lick, 61. Hike, 62. Rely, 63. Sled, 64. Shaggy, 65. Lick, 66. Hike, 67. Rely, 68. Sled, 69. Shaggy, 70. Lick, 71. Hike, 72. Rely, 73. Sled, 74. Shaggy, 75. Lick, 76. Hike, 77. Rely, 78. Sled, 79. Shaggy, 80. Lick, 81. Hike, 82. Rely, 83. Sled, 84. Shaggy, 85. Lick, 86. Hike, 87. Rely, 88. Sled, 89. Shaggy, 90. Lick, 91. Hike, 92. Rely, 93. Sled, 94. 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Self-drive breaks

Departures most weekends

FROM £89.95 (Friday Night)

FROM £99.95 (Saturday Night)

The self-drive break is for one evening staying either on the Friday night or Saturday night in a four-star hotel. You will see the evening performance: for Friday night you will have a top price ticket and for Saturday evening there is a choice of price bands. Stay extra nights for a reasonable supplement (subject to availability).

* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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Flat may suit a first time buyer

Ideal for the first-time buyer or single person, this modern first-floor flat is for sale based on offers around £69,950.

Convenient for all local facilities, the flat in Chapel Court, Pensnett, has a hall lounge, modern bathroom and kitchen and bedroom – as well as parking.

The living room is 14ft 4in by 10ft 5in, while the kitchen measures 11ft 8in by 8ft and comes with a range of base and eye level units with rolled-edge work surfaces, stainless steel sink, integrated electric oven, hob and extractor and plumbing for automatic washing machine.

Communal

The double bedroom is 1ft 9in by 9ft 9in and has a range of fitted wardrobes and double glazed window to the front, while the bathroom has a white suite comprising panel bath with shower over, low flush WC, pedestal hand wash basin and tiled walls.

The property stands in lawned communal grounds and there is a communal parking area.

For more details call Taylors on 01384 265265.



In the kitchen there is a range of base and eye-level units, electric oven, hob and extractor



Priced around £69,950, this first-floor flat in Chapel Court, Pensnett, is now on the market



Brecon View, Holloway Street, Lower Gornal DY3 2EF
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Plot 69 – The Willow

2 bedroom home

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Deposit	(4%) £5,880
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Total purchase price	£147,000



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People living on new developments often find there is a real sense of community and friendly neighbours

The location of a new home is an extremely important consideration. Naturally, buyers will have decided in which district they wish to reside but, the exact nature of the location is often ignored.

Houses are built in one of three types of location, the estate development, the vacant plot among older properties and the solitary position without immediate neighbours.

For buyers, it's essential to be clear about which they prefer, because the wrong location can turn that dream home into a nightmare.

Some people are gregarious and find the estate development an ideal place to live - there are immediate neighbours who are as new to the area as you.

There is the constant bustle of life in a mixed and almost integrated community, along with a common bond of newness. However, to some people, the above advantages are distinct disadvantages. Many people, while appreciating the proximity of others in the neighbourhood, also appreciate a certain degree of privacy. Moving into an established community allows this slow assimilation and provides the freedom to integrate or not as you wish. For both the above communities there will be an established infrastructure with public transport, shops and shopping centres, schools, medical and other facilities, all within a reasonable distance.

Each location has its advantages and disadvantages. Each will appeal to specific types of people. If you are house hunting, think very carefully before you buy or you will be condemned to a home life that is far less conducive to happiness than it ought to be.

Andrew Grant



ALDERDALE AVENUE, SEDGLEY

A Spacious Five Bedroom Detached Residence With Additional Annex To Side. Reception Hall, dining kitchen, sitting room, lounge, conservatory, five bedrooms, two en suites, house bathroom, downstairs wc, rear garden, garage converted to storage area and annexe. Annex: Bathroom, living area, lobby with kitchen area.

Guide Price: £240,000

Contact Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



AGENORIA DRIVE, STOURBRIDGE

An Immaculately Presented Detached Residence Situated In A Popular Location Hall, Fitted Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Utility, Conservatory, Bedroom 4/Family Room with En Suite, Landing, Three Bedrooms, House with En Suite, Landing, Three Bedrooms, House

Guide Price: £275,000

Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



VICARAGE ROAD, WOLLASTON

A Deceptively Spacious Detached Residence Situated In This Popular Location Reception Hall, Fitted Cloakroom, Dining Kitchen, Four Reception Rooms, Spacious Landing, Four Bedrooms, En Suite Shower Room, House Bathroom, Double Garage, Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £455,000

Contact: Sadie Grant on 01384 370232



152 KIDDERMINSTER ROAD SOUTH, HAGLEY, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY9 0JD

OPEN HOUSE VIEWING
SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 11am-1pm
A Rare Opportunity To Acquire A Detached Residence With Paddock Adjoining In This Sought After Location. Reception Hall, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Inner Hall, Utility Area, Garden Room, Two Storage Cupboards, Downstairs WC, Landing, Master Bedroom with Ensuite Shower Room, Dressing Area, Nursery/Study, Three Further Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Double Garage, Rear Garden, Paddock (approx 0.44 of an acre). Stable. NO UPWARD CHAIN

GUIDE PRICE: £575,000

Contact: Sadie Grant on 01384 370232



THE COMPA, KINVER

A Unique Detached Residence Situated In An Elevated Position Offering Versatile Accommodation Situated In This Popular Village. Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Study, Five Bedrooms, Dressing Room, Two En Suites, Gym, Bar, Pool Room, Swimming Pool, Double Garage, Garden.

Guide Price: £750,000

Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



SWAN STREET, STOURBRIDGE

A Traditional Semi-Detached In Need Of Refurbishment Situated In Popular Location. Reception Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Lobby, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Gardens. Offers by way of sealed bids by 12 noon on 30th September 2011.

Offers Over: £100,000

Contact: Janis Borley on 01384 370232



PLATTS CRESCENT, STOURBRIDGE

A Conveniently Situated Deceptively Spacious Period Terrace Property. Comprising: Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms And Rear Garden.

Guide Price: £110,000

Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



RAVENSITCH WALK, BRIERLEY HILL

A Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi-Detached On A Corner Plot In This Popular Location. Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, Two Driveways, Rear Garden.

Guide Price: £139,950

Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



ELMWOOD ROAD, WORDSLEY

A Four Bedroom Detached Residence Situated In This Popular Location. Comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Study, Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, 3 Car Driveway and Parking.

Guide Price: £194,995

Contact: Sadie Grant on 01384 370232



BROUGHTON ROAD, PEDMORE

OPEN HOUSE 4th September
10.30am-12.30pm
Reception Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Verandah, Bedroom One, Downstairs Bathroom, Landing, Bedroom Two With En-Suite, Garage, Front and Rear Gardens.

Guide Price: £235,000

Contact: Sadie Grant on 01384 370232



www.andrew-grant.co.uk



K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2011

66 SCHOOL ROAD, TETTENHALL WOOD

3 bed Semi - 2 Reception - for modernisation
Guide: £92,000/£97,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER AT 9.30 am

2 CASTLECROFT AVENUE, CASTLECROFT, WOLVERHAMPTON

Spacious 3 bed Semi in Good location
Through Lounge, large Kitchen, Gas CH, Garage
Guide: £115,000/£125,000~

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER at 10.15 am

41 MANLOVE STREET, PENN FIELDS
Late Victorian 3 bed Terraced, 2 Reception - needs improvement
Guide: £73,000/£78,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER at 11.00 am

152 ALDERSLEY ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON
Late 19th Century End Terraced for modernisation
2 Reception, 2 Beds
Guide: £53,000/£58,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER at 11.45 am

190 BUSHBURY LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON
3 bed Semi offering good letting potential
Guide: £63,000/£68,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER at 12.30 pm

244 BROMLEY LANE, KINGSWINFORD
Smart 3 bed Semi, extended kitchen, garage, pleasant rear garden
Guide: £98,000/£103,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER at 9.45 am

44 DILLOWAYS LANE, WILLENHALL

For Investment - 3 bed Mid terraced
Tenanted - £4,732 per annum
Guide: £63,000/£68,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER at 10.45 am

46 DILLOWAYS LANE, WILLENHALL
Large 3 bed End Terraced, altered/extended Ground Floor, garage
Guide: £49,000/£54,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd and 3rd SEPTEMBER at 11.00 am

18 WINDSOR ROAD, PARKFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON
Detached with spacious rooms, 3 beds, 2 reception, kitchen extension
Guide: £64,000/£69,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd AND 3rd SEPTEMBER at 11.45 am

38 FAIRVIEW ROAD, PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON
Pleasant location, well presented, 3 bed Semi. Quick sale desired
Guide: £112,000/£117,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 2nd AND 3 SEPTEMBER at 12.30 pm

DUDLEY

Shop Investment, current income £11,000 p.a.x
Guide: £85,000/£95,000

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at times specified, so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

Please Register for Catalogue

2 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton 01902 710626 or 424044



AUCTION

22nd September 2011
11am At Holte Suite,
Aston Villa Football Ground

139 Lots to include properties on behalf of:

Lot 1:	Pype Hayes Hall, 997 Chester Road, Pype Hayes, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 41:	Steward Centre, Steward Street, Springfield, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 90:	Land at 42 Town Street, Sandiacre, Nottingham	Land
Lot 2:	Formers Offices at East View House, Shooters Hill, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 42:	32 Exeter Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 91:	131 Watwood Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 3:	Former Children's Day Nursery, 61 Bascotus Road, Winsor Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 43:	124 Daventry Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 92:	194 Tide Cross Road, Kitten Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 4:	Former Children's Day Nursery, 61 Bascotus Road, Winsor Green, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 44:	27 Pollock Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham	Commercial Investment	Lot 93:	Land at Linwood Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Land
Lot 5:	268 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 45:	Agricultural Land at Parsons Hill & Chadwick Lane, Hertlebury, Wors	Land	Lot 94:	14 Hillside Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 6:	270 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 46:	Land to East of A449, Hertlebury, Wors	Land	Lot 95:	216 Cavenish Road, Carlton, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 7:	Former Offices and Yard at Adams Street, Nechells, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 47:	24 Denmore Gardens, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 96:	48 Gladstone Street, Carlton, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 8:	The Former Calloway Elderley Persons Home, The Roundabout, Northfield, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 48:	66 Essex Avenue, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 97:	101 Stanley Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 9:	The Children's Home, 51 Herons Way, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 49:	48 Tame Road, Witton, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 98:	2 Mason Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 10:	Land at Elliott Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Land	Lot 50:	91-91A & 93-93A Mill Street, Cannock	Commercial Investment	Lot 99:	Land at 12A, Open Land in Rowley Regis	Land
Lot 11:	Former Children's Home, Highters Close, Maypole, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 51:	The Freebodies Tavern, 69 St John's Street, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 100:	Land at 24K, Open Land in Rowley Regis	Land
Lot 12:	Site at Maypole Grove, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 52:	The Hill Tavern, 72 Watson Green Road, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 101:	25 The Croftway, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 13:	Former Children's Day Nursery, 5 Tennyson Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 53:	278 Willow Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 102:	63 Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 14:	Site at Milstead Road, Sheldon, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 54:	123 Birchfield Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 103:	37 Wenlock Court, Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 15:	31 Tennyson Street, Winsor Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 55:	28 Hillside Avenue, Rowley Regis	Residential Investment	Lot 104:	264 Spring Hill, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 16:	29/40 Union Street, Wednesbury	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 56:	80 Hadley Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant	Lot 105:	20 Worcester Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Vacant
Lot 17:	Land at Corner of Oldbury Road & Cardale Street, Rowley Regis	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 57:	44 Maxwell Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 106:	Regent House, 50 Frederick Street, Hockley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 18:	Land at Corner of John Street & Flash Road, Oldbury	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 58:	2-24 Brefford Road, Wood End, Coventry	Residential Vacant	Lot 107:	20 Edward Street, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 19:	Land at Dudley Road, Rowley Regis	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 59:	43 Henrietta Street, Birmingham	Commercial Investment	Lot 108:	121 Summerfield Crescent, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 20:	Land off Grice Street (North), West Bromwich	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 60:	26 St Thomas Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 109:	937 Alan Rock Road, Ward End, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 21:	West Midlands	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 61:	144 Watson Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 110:	9 Preston Road, Winsor Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 22:	Land at Rich Grice Street (South), West Bromwich	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 62:	3 & 4 Willow Road, Cheadle, Greater	Residential Vacant	Lot 111:	Coronation Road, Pelsall, Walsall	Commercial Vacant/Development
Lot 23:	Land at Rich Street South & Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 63:	29 George Street, Riddings	Residential Investment	Lot 112:	7 Langley Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 24:	Congreaves Road, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 64:	6 Cromwell Street, Mansfield	Residential Investment	Lot 113:	234 Uchfield Road, Balsall Heath, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 25:	Unit 2 Astle Park, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 65:	Land at Church Street, Kidderminster	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 114:	76 Chelmsford Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/Investment
Lot 26:	The Iron Master, Wesley Street, Bilston	Commercial Vacant	Lot 66:	16 Blandford Road, Quinton, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 115:	220 Dsons Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 27:	2 Hermitage Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 67:	360 Moseley Road, Highgate, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 116:	15 Brook Hollow, Stourbridge	Residential Vacant
Lot 28:	Ground Rent, Copwick Road, Walsall Wood	Ground Rent	Lot 68:	68 Camberley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment	Lot 117:	157 Dowlish Way, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 29:	The Bank, Stourbridge, Country	Residential Vacant	Lot 69:	147 Camberley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment	Lot 118:	29 Huntingdon Terrace Road, Cannock	Residential Vacant
Lot 30:	13 Wootton Road, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 70:	204-206 Gravelly Hill, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 119:	196 Birmingham New Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 31:	37 Gleave Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 71:	2-2A Mill Street, Cannock	Residential Investment	Lot 120:	117A Edward Street, Cannock	Residential Investment
Lot 32:	Hayes Court, 174 & 174A & 176A Hedsfords Road, Cannock	Commercial Investment	Lot 72:	Former Lock Office, Stannard, Lincoln	Commercial Investment	Lot 121:	Land at Rosebay, Lincoln Road, Wrockwardine Wood, Telford	Residential Investment
Lot 33:	Former Police Station, Birmingham Road, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant	Lot 73:	5 Rooth Street, Wednesbury	Commercial Vacant	Lot 122:	25 Lymer Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 34:	Rushwood, Bickenhill Lane, Marston Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 74:	Land at Tamworth Road, Poolesthorpe, Staffordshire	Residential Investment	Lot 123:	6 Dibdon Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 35:	69 Market Street, Hedsfords	Commercial Investment	Lot 75:	Apartment 5 St Georges Court, 30 Islington Row, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 124:	15 Education Road, Dinkirk, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 36:	Land at 104 Union Street, Cannock	Residential Vacant	Lot 76:	Plot 18 Whitsacre Road Industrial Estate, Nuneaton, Warwickshire	Commercial Vacant	Lot 125:	186 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 37:	33 Heneford Road, Shard End, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 77:	130 Soho Hill, Hockley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 126:	18 Stockhill Circus, Basford, Nottingham	Residential Investment
Lot 38:	1 Oak Avenue, Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 78:	Astley House, Breach Oak Lane, Corley	Residential Vacant	Lot 127:	109 Medlicott Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 39:	Moon Under Water, Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock	Commercial Vacant	Lot 79:	94-98 Gravelly Hill, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 128:	12 Menin Road, Tipton	Residential Vacant
Lot 40:	JB's, 15 Castle Hill, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 80:	Stanley Lodge, 99-100 Wood Green Road, Wednesbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 129:	16 Ince Road, Darlaston	Residential Vacant
			Lot 81:	5 Rooth Street, Wednesbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 130:	3 Churchfield Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
			Lot 82:	29 Hunters Road, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 131:	10 Farmham Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
			Lot 83:	6-7 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 132:	6 Dibdon Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
			Lot 84:	200-202 Station Road, Station Spa, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 133:	17 Hughes Road, Biles, Walsall	Residential Vacant
			Lot 85:	136 & 136A Yardley Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 134:	43 Hockley Road, St. George's, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
			Lot 86:	12 Yews Croft, Lichfield Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 135:	151 Edgbaston Road, Hall, Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
			Lot 87:	82 Palace Road, Bordesley Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 136:	1 Trinity Street, Briery Hill	Residential Vacant
			Lot 88:	13 Maidstone Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 137:	Flat 2 The Hawthorns, Comberton Road, Kidderminster	Residential Vacant
			Lot 89:	178 Hall Lane, Walsall Wood	Land	Lot 138:	167 Lythway Lane, Coseley	Residential Vacant
						Lot 139:	4 Vicarage Road, All Saints, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant

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£154,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



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 • Detached Residence • Four Bedrooms • Lounge • Games / Reception Room • Dining Area • Kitchen • Utility Room & Cloakroom • Bedroom One Having En-Suite • Double Glazing Where Stated • Gas Central Heating System • Driveway • No Chain
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PUBLIC NOTICE

FLAT 1, 51 GRIFFIN STREET, DUDLEY, DY2

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £52,000. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to Your Move Estate Agents before exchange contracts take place.

£59,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



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*Conditions apply.



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 A chance to let this desirable mid-terrace property comprising two reception rooms and kitchen to ground floor and two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor. The property has double glazing and central heating, viewing recommended
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 A first floor maisonette having central heating and comprises bedroom, box room, lounge, kitchen and bathroom....
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DUDLEY
ST. GEORGES ROAD
 An improved three bedroom semi-detached having two reception rooms, kitchen, ground floor wc, landing, three bedrooms and bathroom. Other features include gas central heating and double glazing
£500 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

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<p>GROSVENOR ROAD ETTINGSHALL</p>   <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently refurbished semi detached Luxury kitchen and bathroom Three good sized bedrooms <p>£159,000</p>	<p>REGENT STREET WOODSETTON</p>  <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedroom second floor flat Fitted kitchen Two bedrooms Generous lounge and bathroom <p>£72,995</p>	<p>SPRING ROAD ETTINGSHALL</p>   <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional semi in good location Two bedrooms plus bathroom Generous lounge <p>£85,000</p>
<p>BIRD STREET LOWER GORNAL</p>   <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern well maintained semi Hall, lounge and Conservatory Stylish kitchen <p>£145,000</p>	<p>GROSVENOR COURT LOWER GORNAL</p>  <p>REDUCED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One bedroom apartment Recently refurbished Large bathroom Good sized lounge <p>Reduced to £62,995</p>	<p>STRATHERN DRIVE COSELEY</p>   <p>REDUCED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three storey home 3 bedrooms Garage and utility <p>Reduced to £144,000</p>
<p>VICARAGE ROAD WEST WOODSETTON</p>   <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional detached in convenient location Three bedrooms plus bathroom <p>£155,000</p>	<p>ROPER WALK SELDLEY</p>  <p>REDUCED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedroom first floor flat Quiet location and convenient too <p>Reduced to £59,995</p>	<p>QUENTIN DRIVE DUDLEY</p>   <p>REDUCED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptionally stylish detached Three bedrooms plus bathroom Large lounge plus dining room <p>Reduced £109,950</p>
<p>WOODSETTON CLOSE DUDLEY</p>   <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bed semi in quiet location Living Room plus dining kitchen Useful laundrette <p>£135,950</p>	<p>PENWOOD GARDENS COSELEY</p>  <p>REDUCED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright modern semi Two bedrooms plus bathroom <p>Reduced to £99,950</p>	<p>OX STREET UPPER GORNAL</p>   <p>REDUCED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional end town house Two bedrooms plus stylish bathroom <p>Reduced £109,950</p>

<p>DUDLEY ROAD SELDLEY</p>  <p>Period detached with outstanding features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three reception rooms plus kitchen Three bedrooms plus <p>£234,995</p>	<p>PRUDEN AVENUE LANESFIELD</p>  <p>Extended semi detached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two reception rooms plus kitchen Two bedrooms plus <p>£119,950</p>	<p>ELLENVALE CLOSE COSELEY</p>  <p>Smart modern semi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedrooms plus bathroom Lounge and Conservatory <p>Now reduced to £119,995</p>	<p>TIPTON ROAD WOODSETTON</p>   <p>REDUCED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedroom end terraced Lounge and dining kitchen Two bedrooms plus bathroom <p>Reduced to £94,950</p>
<p>ZOAR STREET LOWER GORNAL, DUDLEY</p>  <p>* A spacious mid terraced character house</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedrooms plus Lounge, dining <p>£134,950</p>	<p>PRUDEN AVENUE LANESFIELD</p>  <p>Extended semi bungalow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedrooms plus shower room Two bedrooms plus shower room <p>£119,950</p>	<p>QUEENS ROAD SELDLEY</p>  <p>Part modernised and repainted semi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedrooms plus bathroom Two reception rooms <p>CASH OFFERS £90,000</p>	<p>HALL LANE SELDLEY</p>   <p>Traditional semi detached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedrooms plus bathroom Two reception rooms <p>£155,000</p>
<p>MALINS ROAD PARKFIELDS</p>  <p>Semi detached bungalow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedrooms plus bathroom To rear Convenient location <p>Offers Over £85,000</p>	<p>STRATHERN DRIVE COSELEY</p>  <p>Modern mid town house</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedrooms plus bathroom Two rooms and dining <p>£143,995</p>	<p>FIR TREE DRIVE SELDLEY</p>  <p>Extended semi detached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedrooms plus modern bathroom Living room and dining room Attractive kitchen <p>£147,500</p>	<p>ANDERSLEY DRIVE COSELEY</p>  <p>* Quietly positioned mid terraced close to local amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedrooms plus bathroom Excellent living room and Dining Kitchen Front and rear maintenance Garden <p>Reduced £115,000</p>
<p>CATHERINE ROAD OFF HURST HILL</p>  <p>Recently refurbished modernised kitchen home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stylish three bed semi and garage Lounge and <p>Reduced to £112,000</p>			

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ASHWOOD



£15,000 REDUCTION

3 Waterworks Cottages
A SUBSTANTIAL 'PERIOD' END COTTAGE which forms part of a small collection of distinctive homes. SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL OPEN COUNTRYSIDE which has, in recent years, been EXPENSIVELY and BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED AND EXTENDED. The property is a COTTAGE style home which retains much of the original 'charm and character', comprising: hallways, large attractive lounge with log burner, dining room area, off-kitchen with 'Rayburn', utility, L-shaped conservatory, three bedrooms and a bathroom. GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. This delightful rural property is further enhanced by a large and well-tended garden to the rear, enclosed and beautifully landscaped 'cottage' style gardens upon three sides. Guests enjoy seclusion and a sunny aspect. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £229,950

KINGSWINFORD



An IMMACULATE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys a highly sought after location within Briarswood/ Briarscroft, close to countryside, offering a GENEROUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout which includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, Large lounge, full width luxury fitted kitchen with built in appliances and DINING AREA, LARGE CONSERVATORY, THREE BEDROOMS and REFITTED BATHROOM. The property is set beyond the LONG DRIVEWAY/ front lawn with GARAGE and an ATTRACTIVELY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £214,950

9 Carnforth Close



DUDLEY



Breamore Crescent, 'Earls Keep'

An attractive & quite distinctive double glazed & gas centrally heated Bryant built double fronted detached upon highly favoured development. Well proportioned accommodation includes reception hall, fitted double glazed through room, through dining room, kitchen, UPVC double glazing CONSERVATORY, three generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £189,950

LOWER GORNAL



Ruton Street

Presented in exemplary order throughout, a modern, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached bungalow in short quiet cul de sac development. Outstanding accommodation includes entrance hall, through dining room & cloakroom, two bedrooms, re-appointed bathroom with white suite, well equipped kitchen with a fine range of 'beech' effect units & many integrated appliances, elegant lounge & double glazed conservatory. Garage, parking, neat secluded 'low maintenance' rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

LOWER GORNAL



Wordsworth Road, Straits

VENDOR ADVISES SWIFT COMPLETION AVAILABLE AVAILABLE.
AN EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached family home in favoured district. ACCOMMODATION includes: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen with patio doors, two bedrooms, bathroom, separate utility room with a range of 'Old English Country' finish units, separate toilet, separate toilet. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lengthy garage, garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £166,500

LOWER GORNAL



NEW PRICE

Oakland Drive

KINGSWINFORD



£10,000 REDUCTION

184 Stannahills Road

THIS SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, NOW IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is very pleasantly presented throughout. ACCOMMODATION includes: entrance porch, reception hall, superb 28ft through dining room (possibilities of sub-division), upgraded kitchen with oven, hob & filter, pantry, three bedrooms (two with wardrobes) bathroom, block paved forecourt/drive to brick garage, rear garden. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £149,950

DUDLEY



Vanborough Walk, London Heights

Tremendously improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed DETACHED upon wider than average plot at head of cul de sac with excellent distant views. Superb accommodation includes: entrance porch, reception hall 24'3" through living/dining room (possibilities of sub-division), refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, transverse brick/uPVC double glazed conservatory, bathroom, separate WC, ground floor shower room, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and bathroom. Excellent potential and need of extension. Set back from approach to the GARAGE and enjoying an EXCELLENT SIZED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Offers in the region of £141,950

NETHERTON



Bush Road

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY Currently trading as a successful Butchers Shop for over 34 years with established customer base is this commercial property which comprises ground floor lock up shop, maitresse over with two bedroomed accommodation, off road parking, good investment with separate income from living accommodation. BRIERLEY HILL 01384 265265

Offers Around £132,950

GORNAL WOOD



NEW PRICE

Himley Road

COSELEY



Avenue Road

WOMBOURNE VILLAGE



£5,000 REDUCTION

60 Rookery Road

Delightfully situated within this highly sought after address, this CHARMING MID TERRACED COTTAGE HOUSE affords a VERY GENEROUS and WELL PRESENTED LAYOUT of accommodation which includes: entrance porch, reception hall, central heating, double glazing and comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, through living room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, bathroom and two good sized bedrooms. Set well back from the road, the property is approached through a paved path with foregarden and enjoying a rear patio area, together with sanded lawned garden to the rear. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £124,950

WALL HEATH



NEW PRICE

32 Envile Road

THIS MOST DECEPTIVE 'PERIOD' END OF TERRACE HOME is very well placed within highly sought after Wall Heath Village, just a short distance from local shops and excellent local schooling and offers SPACIOUS, LAVISHLY APPOINTED ACCOMMODATION which includes: entrance porch, central heating, double glazing, comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, through living room, dining room, L-shaped kitchen, bathroom and two good sized bedrooms. Set well back from the road, the property is approached through a paved path with foregarden and enjoying a rear patio area, together with sanded lawned garden to the rear. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £124,950

PENSNETT



NEW PRICE

BROAD STREET

This appealing three bedroomed modern detached property offers gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation arranged over two floors and is seen to comprise: Hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three first floor bedrooms, bathroom, garden to rear, garage, realistically priced. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers around £119,995

GORNAL WOOD



The Spinney

COSELEY



Paul Street, Hurst Hill

BRIERLEY HILL



NEW PRICE

Foxdale Drive

Presented to a beautiful standard, having been completely modernised in recent years, this is three bedroomed gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed modern style property which simply must be viewed. The accommodation is seen to comprise: hall, through living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and three bedrooms. Set well back from the road, the property is approached through a paved path with foregarden and enjoying a rear patio area, together with sanded lawned garden to the rear. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £109,950

DUDLEY



NEW PRICE

Ash Green, Old Park Farm estate

This deceptively spacious, majority uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroomed semi detached home may be of particular interest to first time buyers or young families, and is well worthy of an internal inspection. The property briefly comprises: entrance hall, spacious through living room, transverse dining kitchen, separate WC, re-fitted bathroom, garden to the rear, driveway to the front, burglar alarm. Realistically priced. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers in the region of £104,995

SEDGLEY



NEW PRICE

Round Hill

An ENLARGED, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently situated in relatively quiet cul de sac with good distant views. The conscientiously maintained accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, living room, transverse dining kitchen with doors to garden, separate WC, inner hall, stairs to landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, garden to the rear, double doors to rear garden, store, workroom & a separate toilet. Two double bedrooms, re-painted/tiled bathroom, parking & delightful secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region £104,950

SEDGLEY



North One Mews, Northway

UPPER GORNAL



Pale Street

COSELEY



NEW PRICE

Norton Crescent

This well presented, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached home is situated in an established residential location and by part only appeal to first time buyers or young families. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance porch, hall, living room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and a rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Price: £85,000

NETHERTON



Worcester Road

This traditional style two bedroomed semi detached property is being marketed for the first time since constructed some 75 years previously, and comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Guest WC, Bathroom. Two first floor bedrooms, bathroom and garage. Garden to Rear. Cul-de-sac location. Ideal First time purchase. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £82,950

BRIERLEY HILL



NEW PRICE

Planet Road

This quite exceptional two bedroomed first floor flat must be seen to be believed. Having been recently updated by current vendor, the property is centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation comprises: inner hall, stairs to accommodation, landing, extended lounge, re-fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, re-fitted bathroom, two double bedrooms, re-plastered, fitted wardrobes. First time buyers dream, be quick. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £76,995

Offers in the region of £104,950

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The top property guide for Dudley, Sedgley, Halesowen and Stourbridge

Stylish homes on new development

PROPERTY-seekers with an eye for style won't want to miss the opportunity to view two exquisite new showhomes at Saddlers Brook, Taylor Wimpey's sought-after new development in Rushall, Walsall.

The three-bedroom 'Kingsford' and four-bedroom 'Oakley' are now open and perfectly demonstrate how the latest finishing touches and furnishings can turn a spacious new home into a comfortable home.

During the launch weekend, Taylor Wimpey's West Midlands region saw its highest-ever visitor levels for a showhome opening, and two home-hunters at Saddlers Brook reserved their new home immediately.

Jan Titley, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "Home-hunters are making a beeline to Saddlers Brook to view the stunning new showhomes which offer a unique insight into the wonderful lifestyle opportunities here. It's no surprise that these high-quality contemporary homes are proving so popular, with two plots

walsallchronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

sold during the launch weekend, so anyone hoping to find their dream home here should act without delay if they want to take their pick of the plots."

Taylor Wimpey's designers have pulled out all the stops to create two homes at Saddlers Brook which showcase the very latest styles and trends to perfectly suit contemporary lifestyles.

Soothing

The three-bedroom semi-detached 'Kingsford' has a spacious lounge/dining room in calming natural tones, with soft furnishings in soothing apple green. The colour's accents continue into the fitted kitchen, which features fashionable white gloss units, while the theme creates a tranquil mood in the well-proportioned bedrooms upstairs.

Homes of this design are currently available at Saddlers Brook from £135,996 – that's just 85 per cent of the full price with Taylor Wimpey's easy-start shared equity initiative for first-time buyers.

Meanwhile, warm notes of burnt orange and chocolate contrast with neutral shades in the four-bedroom 'Oakley' detached house.

This home features a generous lounge flooded with natural light from the bay window and a contemporary fitted kitchen/dining room opening through French doors to the private rear garden, while the en-suite master bedroom, three further bedrooms and a main bathroom can be found upstairs. The 'Oakley' house type is now for sale at Saddlers Brook priced from £224,995.

Nestling in a leafy residential area off Carbridge Lane South, Saddlers Brook is a new community of two, three and four-bedroom homes. Ford Brook runs through the development providing selected properties with an attractive waterfront aspect.

To view the showhomes call 0845 672 4132 or visit the sales and marketing suite, located off Carbridge Lane South, Rushall, and open Thursday to Monday from 10am to 5pm.

Call 0121 703 3400 or visit www.taylorwimpey.co.uk for information on developments across the region.



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The price of number 2 Wood Farm Barns in Gospel End Road has been reduced to offers based around £515,000

Barn conversion is now reduced in price

A stunning three-storey barn conversion in Sedgley is on the market.

The price of number 2 Wood Farm Barns in Gospel End Road has been reduced to offers around £515,000.

The conversion provides magnificient, contemporary accommodation in a large corner plot set in a charming, semi-rural location.

There is much oak throughout, including a fine staircase, and the accommodation includes dining hall, double reception room, breakfast bar, kitchen, utility, four bedrooms, two en suite shower rooms and house bath-

room. The dining hall has feature staircase rising to the upper storeys and double French doors and windows set within a double height window to the rear courtyard and garden.

Contemporary

The breakfast kitchen, measuring 15ft 8in by 12ft 6in, has a contemporary range of contrasting units and working surfaces with a co-ordinating centre island with breakfast bar housing an inset four-ring Bosch stainless steel hob with extraction chimney over.

There is also a wine cooler, integrated dishwasher, two integrated fan ovens and integrated refrigerator and freezer.

Upstairs the principal suite, 18ft 2in by 15ft 6in, has a vaulted and timbered ceiling and en suite shower room with double shower.

A stunning family bathroom has a freestanding bath, fully tiled shower, wc and twin wash basins. A further staircase rises to the upper floor accommodation and a guest bedroom suite with en suite shower room.

The house stands behind a wide driveway laid in brick pavers providing ample off-street parking for a number of vehicles, while extensive gardens wrap around the side of the house.

Call Berriman Eaton on 01746 766499 for more details.

SWINSCOE'S

Sedgley 01902 672274
Lower Gornal 01384 455755
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

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★ Three bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes
★ Family bathroom with separate shower cubicle.

★ Guest cloakroom
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£595pcm

FEATURE PROPERTY

The Portway, Kingswinford.

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Spacious & well presented 1 Bed first floor Flat. Features a separate Lounge. Fitted Kitchen/Diner. Double Bedroom. Bath & Shower. GCH. Available Now.

£375pcm

FEATURE PROPERTY

Oak Street, Kingswinford

NEW



Spacious Renovated 3 bed Detached. 2 Reception Rooms. New Kitchen & Bathroom. New Carpet & Decor. GCH. UPVC. Driveway. Courtyard at Rear. Value.

£625 pcm

FEATURE PROPERTY

Foundry Road, Wall Heath

NEW



Beautifully Appointed 2 bed Bungalow. Quiet Location. Large Lounge. Modern Fitted Kitchen. Double Bedrooms. Modern Bathroom. Garden & Driveway. GCH. UPVC.

£650pcm

Hawfield Close, Tividale



Superb Extended 2 Bed Semi. Through Lounge. Separate Diner. Modern Kitchen. Double Bedrooms. Feature Garden. GCH. UPVC. Viewing Highly Advised.

£525 pcm

Bissell Way, Stourbridge



Modern Two Bed Town House. Large Lounge. Modern Kitchen & Bathroom. Double Bedrooms. Garden. Driveway. GCH. UPVC. Available Now.

£575 pcm

Perry Close, Dudley



Well Presented 2 Bed Semi. Large Lounge. Breakfast Kitchen. Bbath & Shower. Garden & Driveway. GCH. Close to amenities. Value at

£495pcm

Audnam Road, Wordsley



Spacious 1 Bed Top Floor Flat. Close to all amenities. Large Lounge. Double Bedroom. Fitted Kitchen. Allocated Parking. UPVC, GCH. Available Now.

£375pcm

Moore Street, Brierley Hill



Spacious Refurbished 2 Bed Ground Floor Flat. Large Lounge. Modern Breakfast Kitchen. Double Bedrooms. Power Shower. GCH. UPVC. Private Parking. Value.

£395pcm

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Modern One Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Fitted Kitchen. Shower. Separate Bedroom. Secure Access. Parking. Value at only

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Moss Grove, Kingswinford



Superb & Unique 4 Bed Detached. Open Plan Dining, Day room, Lounge & Conservatory. American Diner Kitchen. Jacuzzi. 5 Car Garage. Call for full Details.

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Refurbished Three Bed Semi. Close to all amenities. Two Receptions. New Kitchen and Bathroom. New Carpet and decor throughout. Driveway. GCH. UPVC. Available Now.

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Well presented 3 Bed Semi across 3 floors. Two Reception rooms. Kitchen/Diner. Bath & Shower. Garden & Driveway. GCH. UPVC.

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TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

6pm Wednesday 14th September at Kidderminster Harriers Aggborough Suite

phipps and pritchard

chartered surveyors
estate agents
auctioneers

Hurcott Road Kidderminster DY10 2RG

A parcel of agricultural land about 1.14 acres with a road frontage of about 100 yards. To be offered for sale by Public Auction subject to prior sale, special conditions and reserve.



Auction Guide Price £10,000-£20,000



Rectory Lane Rock DY14 9RU

A spacious and versatile four bedroom detached dormer bungalow requiring refurbishment. The property is very nicely located within the sought after rural village of Rock and briefly comprises: Porch, 'L' shaped Reception Hall, Kitchen, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Bathroom, Separate w.c. Two Bedrooms. FIRST FLOOR - Two further Bedrooms. Immense further potential. Freehold.



OPEN DAY Saturday 3rd Sept. 12.00 noon-2.00 pm

Auction Guide Price £100,000-£150,000

Chapel Lane Quatford Bridgnorth WV15 6QH

A Semi Detached Cottage in need of renovation and improvements and enjoying a pleasant village location approximately 2 miles south of Bridgnorth. The present accommodation includes a Beamed Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor Cloakroom with w.c. Hall and Verandah. Two Bedrooms. A Large Landing Area, Bathroom. There is a pleasant side garden with a timber and asbestos garage and a pleasant southerly aspect over paddock land at the rear.



Auction Guide Price £135,000

Worcester Road Kidderminster DY10 1HY

Situated just off the A449 Worcester Road in to the town, providing useful accommodation including reception hall and office suite together with storage bay, stores and workshop/warehouse area. The works extending to approximately 2,700 sq.ft. (251 sq.m.).



Auction Guide Price £110,000-£120,000

Sandy Lane Stourport DY13 9QB

Warehouse/Light industrial Premises extending to gross ground floor area approximately 1,750 square feet and within the building kitchenette, stores, offices, altogether providing first class premises in convenient location.



Auction Guide Price £80,000

Hodfar Road Stourport DY13 9QB

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To be offered for sale by Public Auction, subject to prior sale, special conditions and reserve.



Auction Guide Price £70,000-£80,000

Park Lane Kidderminster DY11 6TE

A three storey three bedroom Victorian mid terrace house requiring full refurbishment and renovation. The property enjoys total privacy from the road by virtue of its elevated position and is also not overlooked from the rear. Immense further potential.



OPEN DAY Saturday 3rd Sept. 11.30 am-1.30 pm

Auction Guide Price £50,000-£70,000

Sizeable home that's bursting with character



Birch Hollow has split-level accommodation with four double bedrooms, two en suites and extensive grounds



The property is well-presented throughout, with wonderful features

This sizeable home, which is bursting with character, further potential and outstanding views, has come onto the market in a desirable hamlet between Kidderminster and Stourbridge.

Birch Hollow in Churchill Lane, Churchill, offers split level family accommodation with generous living space, four double bedrooms, two en suites, a dining room, drawing room, laundry and extensive grounds.

On the market for offers in the region of £699,995 via Lex Allan, the property provides scope to extend and enlarge subject to local authority planning consent.

A heavy hardwood front door opens into a feature reception hall, which leads to a study and a cloakroom with a fitted suite.

On the first floor, there is what the agent describes as a 'delightful' open plan dining room, which measures

17ft 1in x 12ft 4in and provides the ideal space for formal dining. Sliding double-glazed patio windows open onto a large elevated balcony and offer stunning views over the extensive grounds and countryside beyond.

The generous 25ft x 13ft 2in drawing room has a wide uPVC double-glazed French casement door opening onto the rear balcony while a marble fireplace houses a living flame effect gas fire.

Storage

In the French farmhouse-style rustic breakfast kitchen, there's a range of bespoke pine wall, base and display units, matching laminated worksurfaces, ceramic hob, integrated oven and grill, extractor, dishwasher and fridge/freezer. The rear-facing breakfast area has ample space for a table and chairs.

The L-shaped master bedroom measures 15ft 10in x 15ft 6in and features a dressing room with full height wardrobe storage, further store area and en suite shower room with cubicle.

wash basin, WC and ladder style radiator. On the lower ground floor, a central hallway provides access to three further bedrooms, including a guest suite with a range of full height fitted wardrobe storage and an en suite bathroom with a panel bath and shower over, wash basin with storage beneath, WC and bidet. There's also a spacious utility with a stainless steel sink, base and wall units and worksurfaces as well as a freezer room – perfect for cold storage.

Outside, the house is approached via a private driveway with planted borders leading to a larger forecourt parking area for several vehicles and an integral two-car garage with an automatic up-and-over door, concrete floor, electric lighting and power points.

The rear gardens extend to 0.75 of an acre and include a sandstone patio, exterior lighting, steps to a contemporary balcony, full-width lawn, planted beds and shed.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, contact 0121 550 5400.



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DUDLEY
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**NEW
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A two bedroom end terrace house, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom on ground floor, two bedrooms and attic room. Gas central heating and double glazing. DSS considered with a guarantor.
£475 PCM

CRADLEY HEATH
Archer Gardens

TO LET

A two bedroom semi detached house having double glazing, lounge, bathroom with shower, central heating and double glazing. Allocated parking. No DSS and no pets.
£500 PCM

RUSSELLS HALL, DUDLEY
Bullfinch Close

NEW

A two bedroom semi detached house located in quiet cul de sac location. Lounge, fitted kitchen & conservatory leading to paved patio and enclosed garden. Has two bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor. Central heating & double glazing. Driveway to the front. Unfurnished. No DSS. Available now.
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LEVESON DRIVE

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

An immaculate two bedroom end terraced house with views of the canal to the rear with hallway, lounge with dining area, fitted kitchen, driveway and garden to the rear
£99,950

HALESOWEN
Banners Lane

**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

This immaculate three bedroom three storey mid town house located on the popular 'Hedges Grange' estate having allocated parking, downstairs wc, bathroom on first floor, master bedroom on second floor with en-suite and dressing area and a garden to the rear
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DUDLEY
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A two bedroom first floor flat, lounge, fitted kitchen, two good size bedrooms, bathroom with electric shower. Available now, genuine DSS considered with a guarantor.
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A modern one bedroom apartment having open plan lounge/ kitchen area. Double glazing, allocated parking. No DSS. Unfurnished, available September 2011
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A modern two bedroom top floor apartment. Near Tipton town centre. Having double, open plan lounge/ kitchen/ dinner. Allocated parking, secure entry. Available now.
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DUDLEY
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NEW

Modern, spacious, two bedroom ground floor apartment. Fitted kitchen/ diner, lounge, master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom. Allocated parking, available now.
£525 PCM

DUDLEY
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**NEW
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Three bedroom end terraced house in need of modernisation throughout and is only available to cash buyers.
£60,000

SELDLEY
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**NEW
INSTRUCTION**

A much improved traditional two bedroom mid terraced house with lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom and a good size enclosed garden to the rear
£104,950

TIPTON
Lissimore Drive

TO LET

A modern two bedroom first floor apartment with fitted kitchen, lounge, two good size bedrooms, house bathroom, allocated secure parking in a cul de sac location
£475 pcm

DUDLEY
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A nicely presented two bedroom mid terrace. Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, good size bathroom with shower, central heating and double glazing. Rear garden, available now. No DSS, No Pets
£495 PCM

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A three bedroom semi detached house, central heating and double glazing, driveway and garage. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, available now for viewings.
£550 PCM

DUDLEY
Hellier Street

**NEW
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A three bedroom mid terrace house. Two reception rooms, kitchen with small utility, attic room, house bathroom. DSS considered with guarantor. Available now
£575 PCM

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Fresh new look for Exeo

SEAT's executive class Exeo saloon and ST estate range is getting a new look, and some important new engineering upgrades.

The revised Exeo 'face' with new bi-xenon headlights and stunning LED daytime running lights (standard on Sport, optional on SE), will make its public debut in the metal at the forthcoming Frankfurt Motor Show.

The styling enhancements, boosted by smart new alloy wheel designs, further underline the high value Exeo range's premium look.

Upgrades

Upgrades to interior materials – including upgraded leather on the steering wheel and revised upholstery – create a matching premium feel.

Meanwhile, improvements to the high quality SEAT saloon and estate's 2.0 TDI common rail powerplant now see emissions cut to as little as 129 g/km.

Economy is similarly improved, too, with the Exeo saloon now being capable of as

much as 57.6 mpg on the EU's combined cycle. The latest upgrades to the Exeo come hard on the heels of the arrival of a new gearbox option earlier this year, with the addition of a smooth, efficient Multitronic auto/sequential manual gearbox further underlining the luxurious SEAT's executive appeal.

The Multitronic 'box – with its CVT-based technology and stepped 'changes' – offers both full auto mode and the option of sequential shifts via the sporty, steering wheel-mounted shift paddles.

Looking to 2012, the Exeo family is in for further upgrades with the addition for the first time of SEAT's effortless Start/Stop technology on an Ecomotive model, which will help deliver even more fuel efficiency.

SEAT is targeting an ambitious CO₂ figure of less than 120 g/km for the Start/Stop-equipped Exeo, which will, of course, enhance its appeal to both environmentally-conscious private buyers and UK fleet managers who demand such low emissions levels from even their executive models.

The Exeo's eye-catching styling changes, allied to SEAT's ongoing commitment to improving quality while simultaneously cutting its cars' emissions and improving

fuel economy, are sure to generate further interest in the range.

It is now the Spanish brand's third best-seller in the UK behind the Ibiza supermini and sporty Leon five-door family hatch.

The upgrades to the Exeo should boost both the emotional and rational appeal of the range.

SEAT UK managing director Peter Wyhinny said: 'The arrival of the Exeo marked SEAT's debut in a new and hard-fought market segment, and the success of the fleet-friendly saloon and estate range is already clear.'

Crowds

"Now, with this great new look and impressive engineering changes I'm sure the Exeo will draw the crowds to both our Frankfurt show stand and, in due course, our UK dealerships."

The Exeo range is offered with a choice of three frugal turbodiesels or one potent turbocharged petrol engine.

Cars in the range are priced from £19,285.

● Full details on the entire SEAT range, together with a sophisticated car configurator, are available at www.seat.co.uk



Ibiza SC 1.4 SE Copa New '61' Plate
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Motability

Promotion applies to SEAT Ibiza SC 1.4 SE Copa £10,495 RRP, registered before 30th September 2011. Prices correct at time of print. Retail customers only. Subject to availability. *Figures shown are based on 42 months, assuming a maximum of 10,000 miles per annum. All rentals are quoted inclusive of VAT. An advance rental of £199 is payable, followed by 41 regular monthly rentals of £199. A 5.76p per mile excess mileage charge applies if the annual contract mileage of 10,000 miles is exceeded. The quotation is given subject to the vehicle being serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines. Further charges may be payable when the vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Over 18's in the UK only. Excludes the Channel Islands. Subject to status from Clarks of Kidderminster. Personal Contract hire provided by SEAT Finance, Freepost SEAT Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Figures shown based on 42 months PCH.

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RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXTREME 07 Reg, 5-door, Red Metallic, AC, 65k, FSH	£4995	
PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 08 Reg, 5-door, Silver, AC, 1 Owner, 23k, FSH	£5695	
VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI SXI 57 Reg, 5-door, Grey Metallic, AC, Alloys, 49k, FSH	£5995	
VAUXHALL SIGNUM 1.9 CDTI Auto, 07/06 Reg, Grey Metallic, Sat Nav, Half Leather, AC, Alloys	£5995	
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Sports

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CITROEN C4 1.6 COOL 3-DR COUPE 07 Reg, Silver, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 29k, FSH	£4495	
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BMW 320CI SPORT Cabriolet 08 Reg, Grey Metallic, Leather, AC, Alloys, 62k, FSH	£6995	
FORD FIESTA 2.0 ST 08 Reg, 3-door, White, AC, 25k, FSH	£7495	
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Mpv's

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01785 612095.

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01902 517537.

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RENAULT KANGOO Wheelchair Ramp Access (three seat plus wheelchair) 2002 model, 1.2, 2006 reg, 12 months MoT, grey/silver, petrol very good condition, 12 months MoT, group 2 insurance, £2,299.
07879 403002.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.2 Expression, 2004, 55,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, auto, petro, 1.2, 5dr, £2,950 o.n.o.
07582 910238.

RENAULT SCENIC Dynamique, 1.6 VVT, 2003 reg, new shape, 47k, 5dr, 53,000 miles, fsh, £2,800 o.n.o.
07980 269269.

RENAULT TWINGO 2010, 1.2, 11k, red, e/w, v/c, lady owner, 1.2, 5dr, £2,500, MoT, 2009, 200k miles, £1,200.

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TOYOTA AVENSIS T3 SD/4D, 2.0 D, ESTATE, 2004, 60,000 miles, MoT, 2012, silver, Toyota service history, 67,000 miles, £4,200, o.n.o.
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TOYOTA YARIS 05, 60,000 miles, tax, April 2012, MoT, May 2012, superb condition £3,995.
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VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 Design 2004, 44k, blue, 5dr, tax, MoT, e/w, alloys, £3,150 o.n.o.
07143 885221.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 2008, 36,000 miles, AC, 5dr, 12 months manufacturers warranty, £5,950 o.n.o.
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VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 2005, 12 months MoT, Six months tax, £4,300.
07837 671335.

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01384 261466.

VAUXHALL POLO 1.2 Petrol, S55, 2005 (55 reg), 72k miles, jazz blue, abs, e/w, air bag, air con, fsh, 12 months MoT, pas, very good condition, 4 new tyres, 2 owners.
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FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI 2001, 80k miles, MoT, tax Jan 2012, electric heated leather seats, new tyres, MoT owner, £1,150 o.n.o.
07974 349075.

KIA CARENS 2002, blue, one year, MoT, 11,000 miles, ready to drive, £1,100 o.n.o.
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MAZDA 5 UNOS Automatic, 1991, 83,000 miles, silver, Must be seen, Tax and MoT, £1,350. 01562 638000 / 07974 349075.

MERCEDES C180 R, reg. 1997, Auto, 80k, totally immaculate, MoT till Oct, Drives beautiful, must sell this weekend, £1,100 o.n.o.
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MG ZR 2003, 110,000 miles, green, abs, fsh, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloy, steel, black, swb, petrol, £200 o.n.o.
07981 322080.

PEUGEOT 106 1.0L 2, Diesel 1.6, R reg, 1998, 5 door, tax and MoT, Nov 2012, excellent runner, £900 o.n.o.
01902 349075.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4L GX 2001, black, sunroof, AC, CD, 73,000 miles, tax, MoT £1,400. 07981 813297.

PEUGEOT 306 Cabriolet, T reg, red, leather interior, long MoT, 1995, 79,000 miles, £1,350. 01562 638000 / 07974 349075.

RENAULT CLIO, 51, 2000 miles, MoT, 2012, service history, £1,150 o.n.o.
01902 516656 / 07974 349075.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC reg. 1999, MoT 6 months, Tax, FSH, £1,350. 01499 07974 349075.

TIROEN XSARA 1.1, 1998, full MoT, five doors, many new parts, £750. 01384 242228 / 07888 208271.

TIROEN XSARA Picasso 1.6 petro, reg. 2000, MoT March 2010, tax May 2010, £1,350 o.n.o.
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TIROEN 25, 1900, W, MoT June 2011, tax November 2011, 73,000, good condition, £850. 01902 656292.

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FIAT BRAVO 2000 reg, tax/Mot, 5dr, EW, pas, very clean and reliable, new cam etc, £650 o.n.o.
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HONDA I25 CBR K4, 05 reg, in red, 2002, 12,000 miles, tax in April 2012, £1,250. 07903 077760.

SUZUKI GSX750F 52, red, 13k, 2002, £1,250. 07907 417944 (text only) or 07974 349075.

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Stour claim title with games to spare

Worcestershire County Cricket League

Stourbridge clinched the Division One title with three games to spare thanks to victory at Worcester.

The champions, who look on course for a new points record, made modest 217-3 but Matt Bradley (7-33) was outstanding as Worcester fell 90 all out.

Astwood Bank's postponement at home to Bromyard meant that Stour couldn't be caught and to complete a bad day for Bank, they were overtaken by Pershore who took maximum points from their win over Romsley.

Pershore's Riding brothers – Liam (186) and Chris (105 not out) – did the damage with a mammoth second-wicket stand of 293 as Romsley's relegation was confirmed.

Elsewhere Oldswinford beat Droitwich in a

hurry, while Nomads suffered the indignity of holding on for a losing draw at home to Redditch who gained 16 valuable points in their fight against the drop.

In **Division Two**, the leaders both slipped up. Coombs Wood lost at Wormelton and Feckenham's last pair defied Colwall for a draw.

Coombs Wood are now just one point ahead of Colwall with Hagley, who defeated Monmouth, 14 points behind Colwall.

Kidderminster's sorry season was ended in relegation by Netherton and Malvern look likely to join them after losing to Belbroughton.

Division Three leaders Rushwick won at Chaddesley as second placed Alvechurch could only manage a winning draw, and Stourport look likely to come third after beating Lye.

Envile had the weather to blame for a draw at

Cookley so James Willis' 189 was almost in vain. By not playing, Himbleton eased their relegation fears as the five points they gained were two more than Lye.

In **Division Four** champions Tenbury beat Alveley in a rain-reduced match and Social confirmed second place by beating relegated Amblecote. Canon Frome, already down, won for the second week running and Martley beat Avoncroft to move to safety.

Division Five leaders Old Hill easily picked up the three points needed to wrap up the title in a draw at home to Claverley for whom Tom Grainger made in 110 in a valiant effort.

Ross are confirmed in second after beating early pacersets Bromsgrove, and Cleobury Mortimer finished third with a win at Old Elizabethans thanks to 128 from Ben Griffiths.

Hickman hunts gold



World Championship-bound Thomas Hickman, aged 17, leading a class at the Inspire Gym in Brierley Hill

Cash fight for trip

Thomas Hickman has some work to do before he goes for gold in the World Karate Championships.

Hickman heads off to Malaysia in October looking to build on the bronze medal he won in the competition in Morocco two years ago.

"But I think he's got the hunger to win it now."

"The first time it was a shock. There were thousands of people in Morocco and he suffered from a bit of nerves. Now he knows what is in front of him."

Karate has been voted out of the schedule for the Olympics in 2012 and 2016, leaving the World Championships as the pinnacle of a fighter's career.

But that has hurt the sport's ability to attract government funding and sponsorship, Campbell insists.

He said: "Thomas knows he has to pay his way but we don't do enough to support these young kids."

"If they can't afford it, they just don't go."

In-form Athletic cruise to victory at Shawbury

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SHAWBURY 1 GORNAL ATHLETIC 4

Gornal made it three league wins on the bounce at Shawbury despite a defensive personnel crisis.

With Connor Gater, Chris Waterhouse, Gurd Wilkhoor and Richard Young all out of action, Gornal manager called upon debutant Danny Ashton with full-back Pete Wood moved into the middle of the defence.

Despite having endured 120 minutes of thrilling FA Cup action at Shifnal on Wednesday night, Gornal dispelled any fears of weariness and took the lead on 15 minutes when Dave Meese struck a sublime dipping volley from the edge of the area which left Shawbury keeper Damien Stevens no chance.

On 22 minutes the home side almost drew level when captain David Walbyoff's header cannoned off the bar, and six minutes later a turn and shot by Callum Pugh flew narrowly over.

But two minutes later Gornal doubled their lead when Calum Martin and Marvin Nisbett combined to set up Cameron Morgan who powered home a header from seven yards.

And on 39 minutes Nisbett twisted and turned into the area before unleashing a shot which went in via the post.

Pressure

Further efforts by Nisbett, Meese and Cameron Morgan went close as Gornal piled on the pressure leading up to the interval.

Shawbury came out stronger in the second half and Matthew Owen ought to have pulled one back within 60 seconds of the restart.

The second half was hindered as a swirling wind made play challenging and proceedings took an unfortunate turn when a heavy challenge amid some unchecked wild exchanges saw Calum Bromley suffer what looked a serious injury.

On 76 minutes Gornal extended their lead when Kristian Green clinically finished after excellent work by Calum Martin down the right wing.

Shawbury grabbed a consolation goal deep into stoppage time when a goalmouth scramble saw Callum Pugh poke home past James Pemberton to deny Gornal a clean sheet.

Shawbury: Damien Stevens; Calum Bromley; Charlie McKay; James O'Reilly; David Walbyoff (Captain); Stefan Holliday (Chris Huston, 67); Matthew Ballard; Jonathan Houlston (James Askew, 62); Stephen O'Reilly (Harry Murphy, 72); Callum Pugh; Matthew Owen.

Gornal: James Pemberton; Danny Ashton; Robin Keates; John Hill; Pete Wood; Lee Wherton (Captain); Dave Meese (Mike Perks, 72); Kristian Green; Cameron Morgan (Jake Morgan, 65); Calum Martin; Marvin Nisbett (Matt Weyman, 65).

Glassboys show their class

Goals from Nathan Bennett and Ryan Rowe helped Stourbridge to secure a deserved victory from their first meeting with the newly promoted Bedfordshire side.

For the second time this season, Gary Hackett's men used the Grove to stage a home league match, but the change of surroundings did not deter the Glassboys who might have been in front inside 30 seconds.

Sam Rock played the ball in from the left and Linden Dovey laid a short pass off to Ryan Rowe who shot from the edge of the box whistled inches over the crossbar.

Eleven minutes later, a poor clearance from defender Derek Brown enabled Rowe to dribble towards the Arlesey penalty box, however he shot tamely wide, but as the Glassboys continued to make most of the running, they forged ahead on 20 minutes.

A right-wing corner from Sean Geddes into the near post area was headed down and across by Broadhurst for Nathan Bennett to shoot home, despite the efforts of Aston Goss on the line.

Seven minutes later though the visitors almost drew level when Ryan Frater crashed a thunderous 25-yard free-kick narrowly wide of Lewis

from the right drew Solly off his line, but he was beaten to the ball by tall substitute Leon Simpson who saw his header bounce agonisingly the wrong side of the post.

Stourbridge responded on 82 minutes with McCone slipping the ball back from the right-hand byline for Rowe and he lined up Dovey on his inside who flashed a shot over the bar.

Two minutes later Aaron Griffiths cut out a stray pass and drove forward through the left channel area before drilling in a shot that Hayward tipped over the bar and then a minute from time a header from Dovey allowed Rowe to strike a shot from 25 yards that Hayward saved down to his right.

In stoppage time Arlesey might have grabbed a consolation goal when Goss delivered in a corner from the right and Frater sent a header back towards goal with Chris Marsh getting in the final header that Solly was able to save on his line.

There was still sufficient time left for Rowe to hit the foot of the post at the other end after exchanging passes with Griffiths as the Glassboys recorded a third consecutive clean sheet.

Dudley come crashing down with heavy loss



Dudley's Ashley Morris falls when chasing double points in heat nine



Ashley Morris leads Tony Atkin and Tom Perry at Monmore Green last Tuesday

Dudley lost a match but retained their most precious asset – the love of their supporters.

A team reduced to just five riders after heat two was duly taken apart by a powerful side currently topping the National League table.

Yet when the dust had settled on a monumental defeat, management and the five remaining riders went out to applaud their fans – and were cheered to the echo by a "Monmore Wood" crowd which didn't appear any smaller than that which watched heat one.

But supporters who have been without their team from 1996 to 2010 are well versed in the bigger picture.

In the short term, the play-offs are surely out of reach now. Stoke started the meeting as warm favourites, moved to red-hot after a first heat 5-1

Yeltz move into second spot

MANGOTSFIELD UTD 2 HALESOWEN TOWN 3

his own half and exchanged passes with Arshad before shooting just wide.

Halesowen pressure paid off in the 16th minute when Nisbett's cross from the right found Anthony Bruce who looped a header beyond Mangotsfield keeper Chris Humphries. The Mangos equalised when Lee Marshall sent a bullet header past Paul Evans.

Four minutes before half time Gavin Saunders took advantage to restore Halesowen's lead, collecting a loose ball and unleashing a tremendous 20-yard drive.

Halesowen's impressive performance yielded a third goal in the 55th minute when Arshad beat Humphries to a long ball forward and tapped into an empty net.

Mangotsfield made Halesowen sweat in the final stages by pulling another goal back.

DUDLEY HEATHENS 27 STOKE 64 By Tim Hamblin

and positively incendiary after the second race. Richard Franklin shed a chain, Danny Stoneman ploughed into him and both were stood down from the rest of the meeting.

The Potters, with a powerful top four and lively reserves, needed no further encouragement.

Dudley wilted, their efforts further undermined by the carburettor problems which forced Tom Perry to retire from his first two rides – a particular source of frustration second time out given the smooth move he had just pulled to lead from the classy Simon Lambert.

The Stoke No.1 went through the card and drew heavy backing from Jamie Pickard, Tony Atkin and – the

ultimate irony – 2010 Heathen James Sarjeant.

In the home camp, skipper Jon Armstrong and Ashley Morris were the only riders to take the chequered flag and the Heathens' night was perhaps best summed up by Morris suffering a spin and fall when on double points for a tactical ride in heat nine.

Dudley must now pick themselves up for Tuesday's visit of Buxton. One thing is certain: The fans will be there to see them do it.

Dudley: Simon Lambert 17+1, Jamie Pickard 14+1, Tony Atkin 12+2, James Sarjeant 10+1, Gareth Isherwood 7+2, Ben Reade 4+2.

Stoke: Simon Lambert 17+1, Jamie Pickard 14+1, Tony Atkin 12+2, James Sarjeant 10+1, Gareth Isherwood 7+2, Ben Reade 4+2.

sport

HEATHENS IN HEAVY LOSS

GORNAL SHOW FORM

Page 55

DOCKERTY HELPS TO SINK ROBINS

West Mids (Regional) League Premier Division

STAFFORD TOWN 4 DUDLEY TOWN 1

Dudley Town slipped to fourth place in the league table and suffered their first away defeat of the season as a clinical Stafford Town sealed a miserable day for The Robins' travelling contingent.

Held up by an accident on the M6, the majority of Dudley's squad did not arrive at Evans Park until 2.20pm. Burgess though had tried to stick to the same 11 who had outplayed Shawbury United the previous Tuesday, although work commitments denied him the ability to field Adam Cross Ben Stretton. This allowed starts for Sean Jasper and Danny Smith while Alex Cowley remained sidelined with an ankle knock.

Stafford looked dangerous from the off with their front line being spearheaded by former Leeds United youngster Sam Agar. Luke Cunningham had to be on top form to force the centre forward into driving the ball over the crossbar. It was Agar that gave his side the lead, breaking Dudley's offside trap he was allowed to beautifully curl the ball past Cunningham from the edge of the six yard box on nine minutes.

Hassled

Dudley hassled Stafford but did not manage to make any inroads and were punished just two minutes after the half-hour mark. Agar using his experience to win a penalty from Rob Whitley allowed Matt Dockerty to crash the ball past Cunningham. It was just three minutes later when Agar won a free-kick and saw Craig Hulme beat Cunningham.

At half-time Burgess brought on last season's top scorer Dreniz Bala in order to bring the Robins into the game. The gamble appeared to be paying off when the Croatian chipped the ball over Carl Smith for his first strike of the season on 66 minutes.

Dudley started to get into gear as they looked to challenge for an unlikely fightback, but their new found optimism was short-lived when Luke Cunningham uprooted the dangerous Agar in the box. Up stepped Dockerty to crash home his second goal of the afternoon with 19 minutes remaining.

Dudley kept up their pressure and only efforts from Bala and substitute Harry Williams were of any note.

The performance capped off a depressing day for fans, although Burgess' side was looking to lift the gloom on Wednesday night with the visit of lowly local rivals Lye Town.

Stafford Town: C. Smith, Dockerty, Bloor (Roman), Bailey (T. Smith), Betts, Price, Morris (Miglate), Woodvine, Agar, Hulme, Buckingham. Subs not used: Simpson, Ward.

Dudley Town: Cunningham, Jasper (Whittaker), Richards (Williams), Langford, Whitley, Perry (Bala), Cox, Smith, Store, Faux, Warner. Subs not used: Watkins, Cross.

Referee: R. Price

Town put in dominant display to go second

Dudley Town established themselves as one of the season's early pacemakers as victory over Shawbury United took them second in the table, level on points with table toppers Wednesfield.

However the 3-2 scoreline did not paint the full picture of what was a dominant display by The Robins.

Manager Andy Burgess, himself returning from holiday was able to call up fellow vacationers Ben Store and captain Richard Langford who had missed the 3-1 victory over Wolves Sporting on Saturday.

Last season's player of the year George Reeves was unavailable, as was midfielder Alex Cowley who was still suffering the effects of an ongoing ankle injury, while Luke Cunningham deputised for the working Mark Garvey between the sticks.

Barry Richards also made a welcome return back to the Robins starting 11 after re-signing from local rivals Gornal Athletic.

Dudley found themselves on top in the early stages and could have been ahead as early as the 10th minute when Ben Store planted an Anthony Cox cross straight to grateful Shawbury keeper Gary Turner.

Turner again had to be on form to cover a long cross from Richards that had deviated from its path and headed straight for his top left corner.

West Midlands (Regional) League

Premier Division
SHAWBURY UNITED 2
DUDLEY TOWN 3

Still Dudley continued to turn on the pressure as the hosts struggled to deal with the threat of Town's dominant midfielders.

A neat one two between Cox and Stretton brought a double save from the busy Turner when Stretton's blocked shot was headed goalbound again by Store.

Shawbury did have a brief period of pressure – although Cunningham was equal to a shot from Chris Huston just prior to the break.

Deflection

Dudley had to wait until the 51st minute to take the lead.

A Cox corner was only partially cleared by the Shawbury defence before a blistering Alex Perry shot from just outside the 18-yard box caught a wicked deflection and beat Turner for the first time in the evening.

Dudley looked the more likely to bother the scorers again but they were punished for not turning possession into goals.

Richard Langford uprooting Justin Worthington in the box and allowing Kev McGarvey to smash home from the spot with just 19 minutes remaining.

The visitors, however, only needed three minutes to restore their advantage and did so with their first attack following the hosts' strike.

A fine pin-point cross on the right wing from Adam Cross found Nikki Faux who made no mistake in turning home his third goal of the season.

The game looked over on 85 minutes when substitute Rion Francis Mills tucked the ball home from close range for his first strike in the Robins' senior team.

But into stoppage time Dudley were briefly reminded of the way they were pegged back from 3-0 up at Wem the previous season when a Matt Ballard strike set up a nervous final few seconds.

The 3-2 win took Dudley to the brink of the summit of the league table.

Shawbury United: Turner, Groom (Owen), Murphy, Walbyoff, J. O'Reilly, Holliday, Ballard, McGarvey, Huston (Davies), Worthington, S. Faux (Francis-Mills). Subs not used: Houlston, McKay, Bromley.

Dudley Town: Cunningham, Cross, Richards, Whitley, Langford, Perry, Cox, Stretton, Store (Bala), Faux (Francis-Mills), Warner (Williams). Subs not used: Jasper, Whittaker

Referee: C. Hanna

DK rampant as pre-season games begin



Promising young prop Danny Richards on his way to scoring DK's 9th try



Flanker Tui Asi Pito storms forward for DK.

DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD 62 LICHFIELD 12

A ONE-SIDED contest at Heathbrook saw Dudley Kingswinford kick off their pre-season campaign in style against Lichfield.

The visitors had already played three friendly games, beating Ilkeston and losing narrowly to Derby and Newport, but the 25-man DK squad proved too strong as they ran home 10 tries in an impressive attacking display.

DK, last year's Midland One West champions, began the game in business-like fashion and took the lead on six minutes when Matt Farrington cruised in for an unconverted try.

Ten minutes later a tremendous Pete Knight defence-splitting pass from the base of a scrum set up a break move which culminated in Gareth Bown making it 10-0.

DK's inventiveness was causing all sorts of problems for Lichfield and by half time it was 29-0, with Ollie Shakespeare, Jon Tideswell and Knight all scoring tries.

Jordan Brookes continued the scoring six minutes into the second half, a try which was converted by Bown, before Tideswell added his second and DK's seventh try for a 43-0 lead.

On the hour a fine break from skipper Shakespeare set up a ruck from which the ball was quickly spread wide to the lurking Bown who pounced for his second try of the day.

Soon after superb support play from both forwards and backs culminated in impressive young prop Danny Richards dashing in from 20 metres for try number nine.

DK dazzled the appreciative crowd once more with 12 minutes to go when Bown completed their scoring for the afternoon from a John Higgins through-chip.

Lichfield, who had battled hard throughout, were rewarded with a couple of late tries but it wasn't enough to dampen DK's day as they warmed up for the new National League Three Midlands season with a huge victory.

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